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## REJECTED

### CB6: Ratner's mega-plan would 'damage' Brooklyn

**Bruce to build City Tech tower: P 4**



### Antics on Atlantic

Former New Jersey Nets legend Albert King ran a mini-basketball clinic — and helped Forest City Ratner promote its Atlantic Yards development — at this year's Atlantic Antic. The 32nd annual street fair was a success, despite some store owners who boycotted after hearing that FCR was a major sponsor.

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Atlantic Yards will cause "irreparable damage to the quality of life in the borough of Brooklyn," members of Community Board 6 decreed last week, calling for Bruce Ratner's mega-development to be redrawn before it is approved by state authorities.

In a series of four motions, CB6 crystallized criticisms of the scale and traffic impact of the 16-tower residential, hotel, arena and office-space development.

"Within a quarter-mile [of the arena], the population will increase by 60 percent. No mitigation scheme can prevent the dangers that such overcrowding will create," said board member Jeff Sirabone.

Atlantic Yards would bring 2,581 new cars, 14,410 residents and — on game nights — 20,500 basketball fans to Prospect Heights, according to engineers hired by the developer.

Yet even as they criticized the \$4.2-billion Atlantic Yards, the board members emphasized that they supported development at the site abutting the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

"We want to work with the state," said Jerry Armer, chairman of CB6. "But it is impossible to know if we will be able to support Atlantic Yards until we see how they plan to mitigate the things we see as problems."

The board — residents and business owners in Park Slope, Cobble

See **CB6** on page 4



Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, the Chabad emissary to Downtown Brooklyn colleges, prepares for the Jewish New Year — and autumn, which begins on the same day — by blowing a shofar on the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. Year 5767 on the Jewish calendar begins at sundown on Friday.

## L'shana tova from Smartmom

**T**HE WEEK BEFORE Rosh Hashanah, Smartmom was meditating in her bedroom. Her attempts to meditate at home are usually a comedy of errors and this was no exception. The fragrance of burning incense seems to attract her offspring like flies to honey.

The Oh So Feisty One tipped into the bedroom and assumed her very best lotus position and scrunched her eyes shut tight. After a minute or so: "I'm bored," she said. "Is it okay if I bang your singing bowl really, really softly?"

Grrr. So much for Inner Peace. Then the phone rang. It was Groovy Grandpa reminding Smartmom about Rosh Hashanah dinner on Saturday.

Smartmom returned to the half-lotus position, her right hand resting on her left palm, but she had a hard time quieting her mind because of that Rosh Hashanah call. Should they go to shul? If so, which one?

The religion thing nags at Smartmom: Nag, nag, nag. Especially during the Jewish holidays.

It's not like she grew up religious or anything. Hers was a secular Jewish upbringing on the Upper West Side of Gaphattan. In other words, she

was brought up by atheists, who were very committed to their Jewish heritage and their lox and bagels from Barney Greengrass on Sunday mornings.

Still, on the high holidays, something deeply personal and profound compels Smartmom to seek the sound of the shofar and the stirring melody of Kol Nidre.

When Smartmom was 10, her parents decided that she and her sister needed to go to Hebrew school — it was time to get some of that old-time religion. Just in case.

It seemed hypocritical, but it probably was a good experience, even if the future Smartmom thought it was dumb at the time.

Going to Hebrew school meant no more Sunday morning bike rides in Central Park, a cherished family ritual and one of the great pleasures of Smartmom's youth. Sitting in the basement of Congregation Rodef Shalom learning Hebrew, and discussing anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, was not.

Smartmom dropped out after a year. Maybe that's why she's so ambivalent about going to synagogue.

See **SMARTMOM** on page 5



By Louise Crawford

## Adams quits B'klyn

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce head Ken Adams is leaving his post to take the top job at the Business Council of New York State, starting Nov. 1.

Like the Chamber, the state Council advocates for member businesses, but it has hundreds more members, all over the state — and, ever the business geek, Adams is looking forward to broadening his portfolio.

"There are chambers and individual business leaders across the state eager to work for policy changes that New York needs to enhance its competitiveness," said Adams.

The Council is betting on Adams's record in Brooklyn, where he doubled the Chamber's membership and multiplied its budget by more than eight times to \$6.6 million.

Those who have worked with Adams think it's a sound bet.

"He'll do a tremendous job," said Marty See **ADAMS** on page 18



Just beyond that gray wall near Columbia and Halleck streets in Red Hook, a company hopes to build the first biodiesel refinery in New York.

## An energy solution on Hook

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Forget Venezuela — the latest solution to the energy crisis may be in Red Hook.

A renewable-fuel upstart has submitted plans for the city's first large-scale manufacturing facility for

biodiesel, a clean-burning gasoline substitute made with vegetable oils and animal fats rather than 100 percent petroleum.

"It'll be clean, green and the only thing of its kind in the area," said Gowanus Industrial Park owner John Quadrozzi, who plans to lease a 15,000-square-foot lot on Columbia

Street near Halleck Street to the green gas outfit, Tri-State Biodiesel.

Tri-State, which now operates in a smaller facility in the neighborhood, has already applied for a \$4-million grant from the city to build a plant and "tank farm" where cooking oils from restaurants would be collected and mixed with methanol and some

petroleum to form a less-toxic fuel that can be used in all diesel engines.

The fuel produces 78 percent less carbon-dioxide emissions than standard diesel.

Even before the plant is online, the news is energizing environmentalists, diesel car owners and everyone who

See **NEW FUEL** on page 17

## Activist Evelyn Ortner dies at 82

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Papers

Evelyn Ortner, whose four decades of preserving Brooklyn's unique character started with a single brownstone on Berkeley Place in Park Slope and ended with her opposition to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project, died Tuesday. She was 82.

An early advocate for restoring Brooklyn's crumbling brownstone neighborhoods, Ortner — along with her husband Everett, himself a noted preservationist — reversed Park Slope's steady decline in the 1960s and '70s, by demanding that city and state officials protect a historical and architectural significance that others had overlooked.

"They were both pioneers and legends," said



Evelyn Ortner

See **ORTNER** on page 17



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## Very mortal game

Columnist takes on chess book author



Author David Shenk ("The Immortal Game") taunts Editor Gersh Kuntzman after beating him at chess.

**P**ARK SLOPE author David Shenk is hawking a new book — a remarkable history of chess — which is great news for readers and bad news for me.

See, being friends with David Shenk means signing onto whatever obsession is fixating him at any given moment. After his first book — "A Dictionary for Deadheads" (Doubleday) — came out in 1994, I spent two months listening to "From the Mars Hotel" on Shenk's old hi-fi trying to figure out if "U.S. Blues" was a great metaphor for American policy in Vietnam or just a bad song (I determined the latter, sorry Deadheads).

In 1997, Shenk coined the term "Data Smog" (Harper-Collins) to describe how technology was destroying our lives. Shenk's vision of the future was so apocalyptic that for at least six months, I was too scared to multi-task. Even today, if I find that I have more than three windows open on my computer screen, I force myself to step away.

Then he wrote "The Forgetting" (Doubleday, 2001), a book about Alzheimer's Disease that was so seminal that Dan Rather did the back-cover blurb.

Thanks to that Alzheimer's book, every time I forget the combination to my gym lock or my wife's name, I am reminded that I am well on the way to becoming a dribbling old man within the next four years (give or take).

So perhaps I should be relieved that Shenk has focused his considerable intellect on chess in his new book, "The Immortal Game" (Doubleday). Instead of having to worry about my limited appreciation of Jerry Garcia, the way in which technology is destroying my life, or my atrophying gray matter, I merely have to play chess.

The problem is, playing chess with David Shenk is a

### THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

little like root canal. Like a dentist chastising you for not brushing properly, Shenk starts every game with a taunt, offering you the white pieces because "I'm the better player." And like the dental procedure, Shenk's own clumsiness at the game anesthetizes you into a state of calm. Of course, that tranquility is broken when you

follow his bad moves with your own. And the entire procedure ends with humiliation, knowing how easily it would have been to beat him, and be spared the

humbling post-game lecture.

Shenk's hubris is particularly ironic, considering that when he started researching his book four years ago, he was a "lowest-level player," he said.

"I knew how the pieces moved and I knew the rules, but that was about it," he said. Now he describes himself as a "three or a four."



#### SCHMALTZ DEFENSE

Shenk White	Kuntzman Black	Shenk White	Kuntzman Black
1 e4	e5	18 Qxe5+	Qe7
2 Nf3	d6	19 d4	f6
3 c4	Nf6	20 Qe3	g6
4 Nc3	Nc6	21 O-O	O-O
5 Qa4	Bd7	22 Rb1	Re8
6 Qb3	Na5	23 Qb3	Qe4
7 Qb4	c5	24 Be3	b5
8 Qa3	Be6	25 f3	Qh4
9 Nb5	Nxe4	26 g3	Qh3
10 Bd3	Qe6	27 Rc1	Kd7
11 BxNc4	Bxe4	28 Qc3	Bh6
12 b4	c5xb4	29 Qxb6+	Ke7
13 Qxb4	a6xb5	30 Re1	Kf7
14 Qd6+	Bc5	31 Qd5+	Re6
15 Qb4	d5	32 Bxh6	Re8
16 Qc3	Nxc4	33 Qd7+	Kx8
17 Nxe5	Nxe5	34 Qx7++	

Position after 19 ... f6 (see board above). Gersh (black) foolishly moved a pawn rather than trading queens with Shenk. Had Gersh taken Shenk's queen, the game would have been his, according to Shenk, author of "The Immortal Game."

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But soon, the hunter would become the hunted. While I wasted time pursuing Shenk's queen, I failed to develop the other side of the board and Shenk fought back. But victory was still in my grasp after Shenk's 19th move, d4 (see diagram).

Up by a bishop, I should've traded queens, but something inside me wouldn't allow me to willingly give up a queen (full disclosure: That's not what they taught me in the chess club at Ardley Middle School. Yes, I am a geek).

Having failed to press my advantage, Shenk ground me down with his numbingly deliberate style, spending minutes to consider every possible good move (the problem with that strategy, of course, is that it wrongly assumes I will make a good move).

In the end, Shenk won mostly because I finally got too bored to go on. It was a war of attrition and I attrited.

But Shenk was pleased: "I almost lost — that was exhilarating," he said. "Wanna play again?"

Oy, why can't this guy write about food?

Not to be outdone, Kuntzman has his own book, "Chromolith: The Official Guide to the World's Most Beloved Holiday" (Sasquatch), coming out next week.



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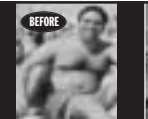
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# Kidnapped & robbed

By Lilo H. Stainton  
and Claire McTaggart  
for The Brooklyn Papers

A woman was forced at gunpoint to fork over \$800 from her checking account on Sept. 15.

The thieves approached her as she walked on Atlantic Avenue, near Third Avenue, around 4 pm.

The pair asked her for help, but when she ignored them, one of the men put a gun to her back, led her into a silver car and threatened to kill her if she yelled.

The men took her to a bank on Flatbush Avenue near Nevins Street, where she withdrew the money, handed it over and ran away in fear.

Police are looking for a 5-foot-11, 190-pound black man, last seen in all black.

**Fast-food bust**  
A fast-food chain was robbed of a safe containing \$4,000 — plus a stereo system — early in the morning on Sept. 13.

A worker reporting to work called police after noticing that the rear door of the popular Cajun-style chicken joint, at 290 Livingston St., had been pried open by the thief.

When he examined the restaurant, he noticed that the safe and the stereo had been swiped. Police have no leads.

**Classroom rob**  
Ethics must not have been the lesson of the day when a public school teacher was robbed of her pocketbook during an afternoon class on Sept. 8.

Police believe that one of the teacher's students was the culprit, as only the young scholars were present in the classroom when she noticed that a purse, which she had placed in her desk earlier, was gone.

A custodian at the school, which is at 300 Jay St., later found the bag in the men's bathroom — without the wallet that had contained \$120.

Seventy-five dollars in credit card charges had also been run up before the teacher could connect the card.

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Locker heists

Two health club locker-rooms one block apart were robbed by thieves last week, cops said.

• Two robberies occurred at a gym on the corner of Remsen and Court streets on Sept. 14 and 18. In the first incident, an exercising customer lost \$30 and credit cards. Four days later, the fitness freak was robbed of \$500.

• On Sept. 13, a gym at Joralemon and Court streets was robbed, netting \$1,013.41 for the thief.

Police are investigating whether the crimes are related.

### Festival grab

The Atlantic Amic' Street fair on Sept. 17 wasn't all celebration, as one 56-year-old woman found out when her pocketbook was snatched from a festival booth she was manning.

The woman had been working at a table on the corner of Bond Street when she realized that her purse was no longer on the table, cops said. The thief made away with more than mere pocket change and was able to use for different credit cards to purchase four \$40 Metrocards.

**Bar beating**  
You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold them. Know when to walk away — and know when to run.

A man with a pocket full of cash should have heeded the last bit of Kenny Rogers' advice when leaving a Smith Street bar on Sept. 16 after a long night of poker.

One of his fellow card sharks followed him out the door of the tavern, near Baltic Street, after the game ended and jumped the man outside, brutally beating him and robbing him of his winnings, police said.

The victim suffered a broken nose and bruised ribs in the 4:15 am attack. The thief fled with his cellphone and \$580 — but he didn't get far.

Apparently, the robber did

n't know when to run, either.

Police Officer Benigno Gonzalez, with the 76th Precinct, arrested the 22-year-old thief on robbery charges.

Police also recovered the phone and the cash.

### Gunpoint rob?

A thief who seemed to be holding a black 9-mm handgun robbed a man walking home from the F train in Carroll Gardens on Sept. 16, police said.

The robber sneaked up behind his 25-year-old victim at 2:30 am as the man left the subway station at Smith and Ninth streets.

He forced the weapon at the man and insisted, "Give me your phone and wallet."

The victim emptied his pockets accordingly, and the mugger disappeared down West Ninth Street with his \$400 Nextel mobile, a New York State non-driver card and the Holy Grail of ID, his Social Security card.

The robber is described as a large man, 6-foot-3 and 200 pounds, dressed in black jeans and a black jacket.

### Gored

If only he had given up the chase.

A Fort Greene man ran head-first into his own robbery when he pursued a teen who punched him for no reason on Sept. 19, police said.

The 28-year-old victim was walking home along Clifton Place, near Grand Avenue, when the first attacker rushed him around 12:30 am.

The thief decked him and disappeared. But when the victim took off after their mysterious man, two other teenage assailants emerged from the darkness. They rushed at him, ripped the jacket from his back and ran off.

The victim found his jacket down the block from the attack, but it was missing two key items from the pocket: a silver Tiffany ring and his passport.

### Bloody rage

A daylight dispute between drivers on Atlantic Avenue prompted one man to beat the other one bloody with a baseball bat on Sept. 16, police said.

It's not clear what sparked the disagreement, which began around 4 pm outside the Atlantic Terminal Mall, at Flatbush Avenue. But something caused the younger man to leap from his vehicle and attack the other driver with an aluminum bat, striking him multiple times on the head, cops said.

The victim was taken to a hospital with multiple injuries.

The attacker was arrested on charges of assault and robbery.

The victim is expected to make a full recovery.

The attacker is being held in custody.

The victim is being treated for his injuries.

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# Subway strangler nabbed after iPod theft

By Lilo H. Stainton

In the end, it wasn't music to the mugger's ears. Police arrested a 24-year-old thief who nearly choked a man while stealing his iPod aboard an R train on Sept. 15.

When the Bay Ridge-bound subway pulled into the Union Street station at 9:50 pm, the mugger lunged for his 22-year-old victim. He grabbed the man by the throat, shoved him back against the wall and snatched the iPod from his pocket and the headphones from his ears. The thief then bolted the train and disappeared into the station.

Police broadcast the mugger's description and transit cops caught up with him later, as the man waited for a Manhattan-bound train at the DeKalb Avenue station. After the victim identified him for sure, Transit Police Officer Antoyne Chess cuffed the 24-year-old on felony robbery charges.

## Unwelcome visit

The burglar probably didn't expect an answer when he rang the bell at a St. Marks Place apartment building before trying to break in on Sept. 12.

But the 5 am buzzer summoned a 30-year-old resident, who went to the front door just in time to see the would-be thief through the peephole. The man was working with what looked like a screwdriver to force the wooden door frame apart and get inside the lobby of the building, between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

The prowler is described as a dark-skinned Hispanic man, 5-foot-7 and 150 pounds, with a black stocking cap and a waist-length jacket.

## Pedals away with nothing

Kids, don't try this at home. But when a feisty victim fought back on Sept. 15, he sent a would-be robber running away empty-handed, police said.

The 29-year-old man was walking home at 10:15 pm along Bergen Street after parking his car on Fourth Avenue. A stranger began to follow him, trailing behind on a small BMX bike.

Suddenly, the rider stopped him and pulled out a knife, demanding, "Give me your wallet! Give me your money." But after the victim resisted and struggled with the armed man, the mugger pedaled off along Fourth Avenue.

Police are looking for a black man, 5-foot-10 and 165 pounds, dressed that day in a gray sweatshirt and matching sweatband.

## Slope cars disappearing fast

Honda Civics have been disappearing from Park Slope streets in recent weeks at a rapid rate — and neither aliens nor city tow trucks are to blame.

Despite longtime declines in violent crime, police said that eight vehicles were snatched in the 78th Precinct last week, including a car owned by an advocacy group for stray animals. A ninth car was broken into, but thieves were unable to swipe it.

Hondas were the model of choice, with six of the thefts involving Civics. Several times, robbers grabbed two cars of the same make, model and year from the same street, within the same 24-hour period.

"We do have a spike in the past few weeks," Capt. John Scolaro, commanding officer of the 78th Precinct told The Brooklyn Papers. "We did recognize it, believe me."

Police have also responded. Scolaro instructed a team of officers to investigate the rash of auto thefts and he deployed beat patrols to problem blocks.

The techniques have proven effective before; despite the recent uptick, stolen car reports are down 21 percent, from 126 in mid-September 2005, to 99 this year, Scolaro said.

- A 1992 Honda Civic was stolen between Sept. 9 and Sept. 11

- A 1996 Ford Escort belonging to the Brooklyn Animal Center

A 1990 Ford Escort belonging to the Brooklyn Animal Foster Network was stolen by a former employee, cops said. The compact car had been parked on Montgomery Place, near Eighth Avenue. The driver said he wanted the car and, as instructed, left the keys in the ignition.

The driver said he parked the car and, as instructed, left the key under a flower pot. Cops believe a former employee, knowing of the agency's standard parking procedure, came over and took the car.

• A 1994 Honda Civic, with Vermont plates, was taken from its spot on Prospect Park West, between Seventh and Eighth streets, sometime between 8 pm on Sept. 10 and 10 am the following morning.

- A 1991 Honda Civic was swiped from Eighth Street, near Fifth Avenue, between 9:15 pm on Sept. 14 and 12:15 am on Sept. 15.
- A 1991 Honda Accord disappeared from the same stretch of

• A 1991 Honda Accord disappeared from the same stretch of Eighth Street, near Fifth Avenue, around the same time. The 29-year-old owner left the car at 5 pm on Sept. 14 and returned at 7 am the next day to find a find a car from the one left on the sidewalk.

the next day to find a cooler from the car left on the sidewalk, but no trace of the vehicle — or the \$1,500 in hand tools, CDs and audio equipment that he had stored inside.

- A 2000 Honda Civic was swiped from Prospect Park West, between Fourth and Fifth streets, sometime between noon on Sept. 16 and noon the next day.

- A 2000 Honda Civic went missing from Prospect Park West, between Ninth and 10th streets, on Sept. 17.
- Thieves went American when they snatched a 2005 Dodge

Thieves were American when they snatched a 2005 Dodge Neon from a spot on Third Street, near Seventh Avenue. A 53-year-old Park Slope woman parked the rental car at 5 pm on Sept. 19 and returned at 8 pm the next day to find it gone.

• The ninth car, a 2000 Acura Integra that had been parked on Carroll Street, near Seventh Avenue, was broken into sometime between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the following day. The car's

tween 4 pm on Sept. 8 and 3 pm the following day. The would-be thief tried unsuccessfully to jimmy the steering column, but instead swiped \$300 in CDs.

Capt. Scolaro said the public can also help keep these numbers down by contacting the 78th Precinct's Crime Prevention bureau at (718) 636-6479.



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# Burglar cleans out club's shed

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

## 68th Precinct

Be on the lookout for brown greens at the Dyker Beach golf club.

A thief made off with a \$4,000 computerized irrigation control system and almost \$12,500 in grounds-keeping equipment from a shed at the club on 86th Street last week, police said.

A 32-year-old manager closed up shop around 3 p.m. on Sept. 14. When he returned the next morning, he discovered that someone had pried open the security gate and clipped the wires to disarm the shed's alarm.

In addition to the irrigation computer, the missing items included four back-pack leaf blowers, worth \$2,200 together, five weed-whackers, three chainsaws, a \$2,500 value, a 22-inch pole pruner, \$700 in hand tools, a battery tester and a Honda power washer. The thief also snatched a Fast-Joy pantsuit, valued at \$525 and a \$450 Ping G-5 driver.

## High-tech heist

A burglar skipped the collection boxes and went straight to the office of a Bay Ridge church, where he stole almost \$1,300 in computer equipment earlier this month, police said.

Someone forced his way through a door on the roof at the Gateway City Church, on Bay Ridge Avenue near Third Avenue, between Sept. 7 and 14. The thief hauled away six hard drives and an audio interface cable from the born-again congregation, formerly the New Hope Fellowship Church.

## Bad trip

Memories of a late-summer trip were soured when the traveler returned to find her home burglarized and her gold and diamond jewelry missing.

The 24-year-old victim left her Fifth Avenue residence on Aug. 28, around 3 p.m. When she got back on Sept. 6, at 4 p.m., the front door lock was broken and her jewelry box was no longer in the bedroom. The \$6,400 in stolen items included a gold ring with the initials "QR," two gold bracelets, a gold-and-emerald ring and a \$4,000 gold-and-diamond ring.

## Silver thief

What a way to end a long week.

A 68-year-old woman returned from work on Sept. 15 to discover that her 74th Street apartment had been burglarized, police said.

When she arrived at her flat, off Ridge Boulevard, around 9:30 p.m., the lights were on and a back window was propped open with a stick. The window had been shut when she left for work at 8:15 a.m.

The victim then discovered drawers from her dresser strewn on the hallway floor. The jewelry she had stashed inside was missing; the stolen items included silver pins, necklaces and cufflinks, several watches, an onyx necklace and another piece made in Mexico — valued at \$1,610, together. The thief also grabbed a camera from the kitchen table.

## Stolen direction

A Bay Ridge man was left to test his map-reading skills after thieves stole the GPS from his vehicle last week.

The 35-year-old victim left his 2004 Mercury Monterey on 97th Street, near Third Avenue, just after midnight on Sept. 14. When he returned at 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, the driver's side window had been smashed and the Magellan global positioning system, valued at \$1,000, was gone. Also missing was a \$400 radar detector.

## Dell disappears

Someone stole a laptop from a Lincoln LS parked on 79th Street for a few days, police said.

The 33-year-old owner left his 2001 silver luxury sedan not far from Fifth Avenue at 10 p.m. on Sept. 13. When he returned at 8 a.m. on Sept. 15, the driver's-side rear window was busted and the Dell computer was long gone.

## 62nd Precinct

## Bad call

Chalk up another example of unprovoked behavior by someone old enough to know better.

The latest incident came on Sept. 16, after a football game among young twentysomethings in a park off 21st Avenue, police said. When an ar-



gument broke out on the gridiron, at 6:50 p.m., things quickly grew violent.

Another player pulled out a baseball bat and began swinging the Louisville Slugger at the 20-year-old man. The victim suffered multiple cuts, bumps and bruises — and the bat was actually his!

Police are looking for a light-skinned Hispanic man, age 24, and named Mike.

## Gas pains

Given the price of gas these days — and the size of most gas tanks — maybe the \$5 fuel purchase should have been a tip off.

The thief used the wacky transaction as cover when he robbed the Bath Avenue filling station at gunpoint on Sept. 14, police said.

The robber pulled into the station, near 21st Avenue, at 5:20 a.m. and asked for \$5 in fuel. He then gave the attendant a \$100 bill and asked for the change.

But as the clerk bent over the cash drawer the thief pulled a black handgun and demanded, "Give me all the money." The

cashier turned over \$300 and the robber roared away in a 1994 Nissan Maxima.

## Geezer mug

A thief knocked a 61-year-old man to the sidewalk during a robbery on 66th Street just after midnight on Sept. 12, police said.

The victim was walking home, near 15th Avenue, when he then rushed him from behind and pushed him down. He then grabbed the man's cache of personal papers and dashed off.

Police sent the victim to the hospital for observation and launched a search for the robber, a white man in his early 20s. Their efforts may get a big boost from the security video footage shot at a nearby store; apparently the thief paid a visit to the shop moments before the attack.

## Don't say no

Nancy Reagan's advice to "Just say no" actually ended up getting a teenager in trouble with some drug dealers.

A teenager attacked a younger boy when the victim refused to buy drugs from him

on Sept. 16, police said.

The 15-year-old victim was walking along 86th Street, at West 13th Street, around 5 p.m. when a stranger approached along 86th Street.

youngster refused the pusher's pitch, the sales strategy turned violent; the thug punched the boy's face and body several times before dashing off along 86th Street.

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The Xavierian Band and Chorus

has played at the White House, the National Gallery of Art and the International World's Fair in Japan. The Pipe & Drum Corps, who make public appearances throughout the New York Metropolitan area, this year led the New York City Council down Fifth Avenue in the nation's largest and oldest St. Patrick's Day parade.

The always-popular Xavierian Dramatics Society attracted huge audiences from the surrounding communities with six exciting performances of the musical *Gypsy* and *Dolls*. As show-goers know, the talent of the cast and stage crew rivals many off-Broadway productions in the City.

Clipper Sports routinely dominates the news and attracts the interest of fans throughout the City. Fielding seven teams from Freshmen through Varsity, Clipper Baseball is again poised to grasp the CHSAA City title. Amazingly, CHSAA City titles were also won by the Varsity Tennis Team, the

Varsity Golf Team and the Junior Varsity Soccer Team. Wrestling sent nine athletes to the New York State Wrestling Finals.

Among its many awards and achievements, the Class of 2006 won a staggering \$12 million in scholarships, including two Chase Smart Start Scholarships. Over 75% of the graduates garnered awards, and a majority were accepted into their first-choice college or university.

More than 200 Letters of Appreciation have been received from 125 schools, hospitals and homes of the elderly where seniors performed community service in the Senior Involvement Program, which began in 1972 to bolster the City's social services programs.

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# Ratner to build City Tech tower

## He'll top off classrooms with luxury apartments



By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

City University of New York has picked Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner to build a skyscraper for New York City College of Technology's Downtown campus — a \$186-million Renzo Piano-designed facility that will include classrooms and hundreds of luxury units controlled by the

developer. The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

The state will finance the CUNY portion of the development, while underwriting Ratner's construction through bonds.

Ratner won the development rights in competition with one other bidder — but state officials would not release information about either bid, nor what Ratner paid for the right to develop luxury housing at a crucial site at the corner

of Jay and Tillary streets.

The majority of the residential units will be sold or rented at market rates, but Ratner's winning bid included a commitment to reserve 20 percent of the rentals at below-market rates. That commitment would make Ratner eligible for additional subsidies.

The building is the first collaboration between CUNY and Forest City Ratner and the sixth between the company and the state in Downtown Brooklyn. In one such deal, Ratner

erected an office building on Jay Street that is shared by a city court-house and private offices.

CUNY spokesman Mike Arena said the "project deals with our academic needs, while reflecting an ambitious plan to create a stronger presence for the school in Downtown Brooklyn." But other public officials, and Ratner's spokespeople, declined to give details.

Piano also designed the New York Times building in Manhattan, currently being built by Ratner.

# New deal lets Nets escape to Queens

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

Is there a super-secret plan to move the New Jersey Nets to Queens instead of Kings?

That's one way of looking

at the Nets' decision this week to extend the team's Meadowlands lease through the 2012-13 season.

When he bought the Nets in 2004, Bruce Ratner said he would relocate the fiscally challenged suburban team to a

new Frank Gehry-designed arena at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush Avenues in time for the 2007-08 season.

But delays in the approval of his Atlantic Yards mega-project have set the timetable back, requiring the lease extension, Nets CEO Brett Yor-

mark said this week.

The current plan is to move the team to Brooklyn for the 2009-10 season.

But the new lease allows the Nets to leave New Jersey early — and without penalty — if the team moves to Brooklyn or Queens.

Or Queens?

It's not so inconceivable.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which has agreed to sell the development rights at the Atlantic Yards site to Ratner, also owns the larger Sunnyside Yards in Long Island City — and Queens law-

makers want it developed, too. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which has agreed to sell the development rights at the Atlantic Yards site to Ratner, also owns the larger Sunnyside Yards in Long Island City — and Queens law-



The original Frank Gehry design for the Nets arena near Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

"I don't think people [would] fight this stadium," Gioia said two years ago, when he first called for Ratner to look north. Calls to the MTA and Gioia were not returned.

But Ratner spokesman Joe DePasco insisted this week that the Nets were only considering Brooklyn.

"We are currently in the public approval process for Atlantic

Yards and as we have repeatedly said our plan is to move the Nets to Brooklyn in time for the '09-'10 season," he said.

But if that plan does fall through, there's always Queens.

# CB6 REJECTS RATNER...

Continued from page 1

Hill, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus and Red Hook — are selected by local city councilmembers and Borough President Markowitz.

Their vote is merely advisory, but it signifies the gulf separating borough residents and their local boards who oppose the project from elected officials who support it.

"People of good will can differ, [but] I am confident that as Atlantic Yards becomes a reality, the board's members will join me, and the majority of Brooklynites, in celebrating this project," Markowitz said.

The only opposition to the Sept. 13 vote came from two union organizers who are members of CB6.

"This is a goldmine of jobs for the community and [the board] isn't listening to that," said Anthony Pugliese, an organizer for the District Council of Carpenters.

Similar comments were made by union members — and their leaders — at the state's final public hearing on the 22-acre project this week.

Wearing glossy stickers proclaiming "Yes In My Backyard," union men dominated the Sept. 18 hearing, cheering the developer for a plan that promises to create 1,500 construction jobs each year during its 10-year buildout.

Opponents went head-to-head with the union reps, blasting them for "naïve" support of

a real-estate developer who is getting hundreds of millions in subsidies and tax abatements.

"With the \$1 billion this project is going to cost the state, you could create over 2,000 \$75,000-year jobs — with benefits," said Fort Greene resident Anang Hesla.

And others criticized the state's draft environmental impact statement for using outdated numbers in an attempt to downplay the impact of the thousands of new residents.

"[One school] is listed at 80 percent of capacity," said Mary-Powell Thomas, presi-

dent of District 15 Community Education Council. "But this year, the school's at 98 percent of capacity."

After the close of the public-comment period on Sept. 29, state planners are required to read thousands of pages of testimony and written submissions and write a final environmental impact statement. The FEIS will then be voted on by the state Public Authorities Control Board, the three-man panel that killed the Jets stadium last year.

That approval vote is expected before Gov. Paterson leaves office at the end of the year.

## Correction

A recent article ("Blood in the streets," Sept. 16) accurately reported that 9.5 miles of new bike paths will be installed in Brooklyn in fiscal year 2007. But the article suggested that those 9.5 miles were Brooklyn's only allotment of 200 miles of new bike paths citywide, less than five percent. In fact, only 40 miles of path will be built citywide in FY 2007, giving Brooklyn nearly 25 percent of the new bike paths. The Brooklyn Papers regrets the error.

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# KIDS SCHOOL STYLE PARENT TEENS CAMPUS MUSIC

## Again, searching for faith...

Continued from page 1

agogue: those Hebrew school Sundays really cut into bike riding time with dad.

Yet since childhood, Smartmom has yearned for a spiritual connection. For reasons she still doesn't fully understand, she longed to fast on Yom Kippur, to eat only matzah during Passover, to see the Hanukkah candles glowing night after night.

This child of atheists had an inner Jewish self that bloomed all by itself.

Clearly, she was after a spiritual experience bigger than the Nova Scotia Lox counter at Zabar's. She wanted more. Something elusive. Something deeper than the day-to-day.

**A**FTER TEEN SPIRIT was born, Smartmom shopped for a synagogue or a Jewish community for her interfaith family to be part of. Nothing felt right. Nothing felt spiritual. Her quest eventually led to a private meditation practice.

Smartmom closed her eyes and breathed in an out gently through her nose. She heard the toilet flush in the bathroom. OSFO was playing "Heart and Soul" on the electric keyboard. A Third Street alley cat in heat was crying like a human child. Trying to meditate at home is a joke, she thought.

Despite her forays into Buddhism, Smartmom works hard to instill the ethics and values of Judaism in her interfaith children; it is, she feels, essential that they understand what it means to be Jewish.

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## SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



(even if no one seems to agree about what that means).

For Hanukkah, they light candles on a handcrafted, wrought-iron menorah from the Clay Pot; they read aloud Isaac Bashevis Singer's classic stories while non-Jewish Hepcat prepares delicious potato latkes.

On Passover, they sing a rollicking version of Dayenu during the Seder ceremony, and search for the hidden matzah afterward — the finder even gets a little gelt.

Smartmom also feeds them plenty of lox and bagels from La Bagel Delight — a poor substitute for Barney Green-berg's or Zabar's. Hepcat especially loves the lox and bagel part, but he nearly fainted the first time he saw gefilte fish.

Breathe in. Breathe out. Smartmom focused on her breath in an attempt to clear and quiet her racing mind.

It's been harder to find a way to meet the family's diverse

spiritual longings. Hepcat and the Presbyterians parted company when he said, "If God made everything, who made God?" in Sunday school. Intellectually, he's an atheist. Emotionally, he's an animist.

Early on, Teen Spirit was interested in the big questions of Life and Death. Although he never liked going to synagogue and didn't want to get bar mitzvaed, he was crazy about the Broadway production of "Fiddler on the Roof" (with Alfred Molina, no less).

After that, he learned enough Hebrew to say the basic Jewish prayers. And she gave him a copy of "The Jewish Book of Why" on his 13th birthday. Just in case.

The Oh So Feisty One, from a young age, seemed to believe in a higher power (Jewish or Presbyterian — it didn't seem to matter). As early as age 4, she'd put her

hands together and pray. "Please, please, please God, get me a Kit doll and a pair of her beach pajamas from American Girl Place."

When OSFO started asking questions about death, Smartmom knew intuitively that she wanted to believe in heaven, a place where Smartmom would love and care for her forever and ever. As Smartmom affirmed OSFO's belief in heaven, she, too, felt comforted by the eternal power of love.

On her black meditation pillow, Smartmom returned to her breathing, trying to unclutter her mind. But that's about as easy as trying to straighten up Hepcat's desk (which she's not even allowed to do). Too. Much. Thinking. Should they go to Beth El or Kol Chayim? Maybe they should try the children's service at the Park Slope Jewish Center.

**T**HERE IS AGAIN: Nag, nag, nag. Even when she's meditating. It's true. She never joined a synagogue. She never makes reservations or gets tickets in advance for high holiday services. Obviously, it's a commitment problem.

Smartmom's Orthodox friend, Yiddish Mama, once said, "You have one foot in and one foot out because part of you does not want to let yourself believe in miracles."

Actually, Smartmom thinks she's still pissed off about missing those Central Park bike rides. Or maybe she just finds organized religion boring and irrelevant. So why, she wonders, does she always decide at the last minute to go to synagogue?

Last year on the eve of

Yom Kippur, she Googled Kolot Chayim and found out that the Kol Nidre service started at 7:30.

Smartmom and OSFO got there in warp speed and were lucky enough to find a seat in the last row. The service happens to be in a church, which is perfect for the inter-faith Smartmom clan. Someone takes pains to cover the crucifix with a beautiful handmade textile.

As usual, Smartmom felt part of — and not part of — the service (there's too much Hebrew she doesn't understand, and she doesn't know all the songs; she gets tired of standing up and sitting down). During the service, she closed her eyes and tried to meditate while listening to Kol Nidre, that haunting melody on the most holy of Jewish nights.

The phone rang again. Smartmom knew she wasn't meditating. Who is it this time? Probably that religion thing. Nag, Nag, Nag.

This year Smartmom knows that she'll be racing off to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services — some where.

Maybe this year she'll accept that her quest to find a way to honor her Jewishness continues.

Maybe this year she'll accept that her meditation and her Judaism can exist together like cream cheese and lox on a poppy seed bagel. Breathe in. Breathe out.

Maybe this year she'll even pick up some tickets — in advance.  
Louise Crawford also runs the Web site, "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

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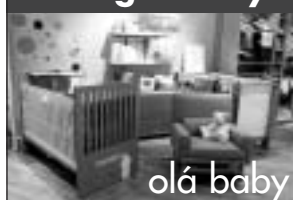
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## OUR OPINION

## Pataki's wall of silence

**G**OT A SECRET? You can certainly entrust it to Gov. Pataki and the cabal of insiders who pack his lame-duck administration.

Time and time again, these state officials have insisted on keeping secrets that the public has every right to know. Lately, whenever this newspaper wants to know critical details — especially about the Brooklyn Bridge Park waterfront development and the Atlantic Yards mega-project — state officials have refused to provide them.

For both projects, the state won't release key financial information that could show, for example, whether so much luxury housing is really needed to underwrite the maintenance of the "park" on the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront or, for example, how high Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards towers

really need to be in order to give the developer a reasonable profit.

And then last week, state Dormitory Authority officials admitted that they signed a deal with Ratner to build a \$186-million tower for New York City College of Technology that will include new classrooms and a gym.

As part of the deal, Ratner gets the right to build hundreds of units of luxury housing atop the school's facilities.

Officials told us that Ratner beat out another developer for the lucrative contract, but would not tell us who the other would-be developer was and why Ratner's proposal was better.

Considering that the winning bidder gets to sell luxury housing as part of the deal, it's important to know the details of both parties' bids.

When this administration doesn't answer

our questions, it is denying you information you need.

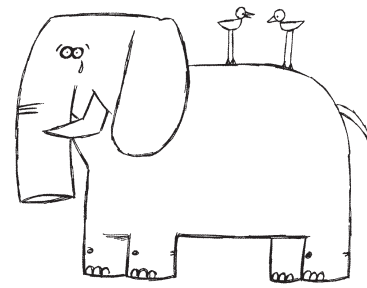
The state's job is to make deals on behalf of the public. But its refusal to answer questions about those deals — or release documents that could let objective experts review the details — makes it impossible for the public to know whether those deals are good ones or bad ones for taxpayers.

In the case of City Tech and Atlantic Yards, the state attitude is simply, "Trust us and trust Bruce." This newspaper would love to do just that — but we're not in the business of blind faith. We are in the business of checking out the facts and reporting them.

After all, President Reagan said, "Trust, but verify." Pity that Gov. Pataki — who claims to be such a Reagan fan — has forgotten that lesson.

## GUEST ART

Cristian Fleming is on vacation



"He can forgive, but he can't forget"

Art by: Cristian Fleming

## LETTERS

## I'm afraid of dogs that are off leash

## Opting out of home delivery

Since the beginning of the year, we've been home delivering Papers throughout Brownstone Brooklyn. Our unique system limits deliveries to two Papers per building (eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services). We hope everyone appreciates our free home delivery, but realize there are exceptions to every rule.

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

Your article ("Dogs Win!" Sept. 9) failed to mention how the "wonderful" off-leash hours in our parks exclude people who are afraid of dogs, allergic to dogs, or wary of dogs (with good reason).

Oddly, the Prospect Park dog-owners' group FIDO, says on its Web site that "many [park workers] are afraid of dogs, so we should all make an effort to keep our dogs away from them at all times."

Even FIDO admits that the off-leash dogs make some people uncomfortable!

*Kimberly Edelin, Park Slope*

To the editor,

The new Parks Department off-leash rule will be a win for both dogs and people.

I have noticed a big difference in the behavior of dogs that have off-leash time and those that don't.

Dogs are like little kids. Both kids and dogs need experience being around others and learning how to get along.

Dogs that get a chance to play with each other as puppies learn how to play safely and they become calm, happy, confident animals.

Dogs on a leash cannot play together because the leashes get tangled up. The only exercise a dog can get on a leash is walking or jogging. They can't even run after a ball or catch a Frisbee.

People who feel dogs should never be off their leashes don't realize that dogs that get off-leash play have experience interacting with people and animals and

are safer, more dependable animals.

*Joe Calabrese, Middle Village, Queens*

To the editor,

Under the pretext of responding to your recent article, Robert Holden, president of the Juniper Park Civic Association, used another organization's Web site to disseminate his views under the headline "Dane Rubenstein is a liar" (<http://brooklynpapers.blogspot.com>).

We find it ironic that Mr. Holden reveals his prejudice by calling your reporter a liar through an Internet intermediary. He does not seek answers to questions.

Instead, he seeks to divert attention from his losing cause to abolish the off-leash policy that has worked so well for 20 years. His attack on the messenger is diversionary and avoids the substance of the case.

Responsible dog owners look forward to the opportunity to continue exercising their dogs off-leash. NYCdog will continue to educate our members in proper dog oversight whether on- or off-leash.

NYCdog group members are citizens of New York, parents of Little Leaguers, participants in adult sports leagues, birders, runners, gardeners and naturalists. We have no desire to deny anyone space in which to enjoy themselves.

Twenty years of the off-leash policy has proven itself to work well. We hope it continues.

*Robert A. Marino, Manhattan*

*The writer is president of NYCdog.org*

## Steve's doin' fine

To the editor,

Ariela Cohen's article, "New Harrison road signs channel 'Barma-Shave' ads" (Sept. 2), misrepresents the road sign event and, more egregiously, the overall status of the Harrison campaign.

The signs, which addressed the traffic problems many in the district face, received a hugely positive response from drivers. In addition, the messages on each sign were carefully crafted and purposefully did not rhyme. The signs were used to supplement Harrison's detailed transportation proposals for the district.

The greater inaccuracy, however, lies in the fact that the article suggested that Harrison is far down in the polls. That statement is inaccurate and misleading. When the reporter and the editor of The Brooklyn Papers were questioned as to what polls the article was referring to, they admitted that no scientific poll was actually taken by the newspaper.

To my knowledge, neither our campaign, nor the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee nor any independent polls have been taken. In the absence of any traditional polls, it is my belief that Steve Harrison is doing very well. As a campaign, we have been to all parts of the district, and name recognition and positive responses have continued to grow.

*Brian Keach, Bay Ridge*

*The writer is the campaign manager for Steve Harrison*

## Gersh wrong again

To the editor,

I was surprised that Gersh Kuntzman (a former Plaza Street resident) didn't know that Grand Army Plaza is as much a part of Prospect Park as the Long Meadow, the Nethermead and the Ravine. ("Gaphattan builder: Stay small," Sept. 16).

As long as public officials and journalists view the plaza as a traffic circle, it will fail to get the respect it deserves as a public space and an integral part of Olmsted and Vaux's masterful vision.

*Robert Mindy, Park Slope*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Gersh Kuntzman did, in fact, live on Plaza Street, which remains more a speedway than a park.

## Hillary's a flopper

To the editor,

The extremity of Hillary's flip-flop on the Empire State Development Corporation's Brooklyn Bridge Park plan disturbed me ("Hillary flips on a park-meets," Aug. 19).

Most notably, she said ESDC's involvement with the community was exemplary.

Many of us found their concern about neighborhood needs merely an exercise in public relations.

Also, they have distorted the measure of support they claim for their plans.

*Robert Zimiles, Fulton Ferry*

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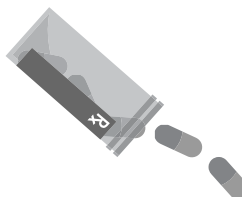
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## BROOKLYN BRIEFS



### In Red Hook, kayakers cry 'No parking!'

for The Brooklyn Papers

It's the same old excuse over and over again: The reason that no one kayaks to Red Hook is because there's no parking.

This Saturday, kayakers can't duck behind that tired canard anymore.

PortSide New York, a Red Hook group that encourages use of the waterfront, will be providing kayak valets at the foot of Coffey Street on Sept. 23.

The goal is not just to stem the tide of persistent kayak theft, but also to get people to visit Red Hook beyond merely driving to Fairway.

"The water is a two-way membrane," said PortSide Director Carolina Salguero, an avid boater. "People come in from the water, and go into the water," and they need a place to park.

Salguero hopes the kayak valets will garner attention to an effort to build a boathouse in Valentino Park, which is designated by the city as a launch for hand-powered boats.

If you don't own your own kayak, don't worry about not fitting in: boats will be available to borrow.

These kayak valets won't be teenagers in ill-fitting red jackets, but experienced seafarers wearing "Kayak Valet" t-shirts.

And tipping is not necessary. Salguero promises that these valets won't key your ride or steal your car if you don't slip them a buck.

—Christie Risk



Yvette Clarke (left) celebrates with some friends and a copy of The Brooklyn Paper.

## Lights out for parachute jump

The Brooklyn Papers

They spent \$1.7 million to re-light the Parachute Jump earlier this summer — but the landmark will soon go dark to save birds.

Last week, the Parachute Jump became the first Brooklyn building to join the "Lights Out New York" program, which encourages tall buildings to douse their lights to protect migratory birds.

"On a foggy night, when the birds don't have the moon or the stars as a navigational guide, they [can] start circling lit towers," said Yigal Gelb, of New York City Audubon. Once the birds begin circling, they get disoriented, and crash into each other or the tower. And sometimes they get so tired flying around that they drop simply from exhaustion.

"There have been sites where they've found thousands [of dead birds] on a single day," lamented Gelb. The World Trade Center's Twin Towers were once hated in aviary circles for the way in which they ensnared birds in their glow — an irony considering the events of 9-11.

The predicament of migratory birds in the big city rends the hearts of animal lovers citywide, including Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe.

"Visits to our public parks are not complete without the happy sounds of chirping birds," he said.

But, despite the flocks of animal lovers in New York, Lights Out New York is hardly soaring with popularity.

The Parachute Jump is the program's only Brooklyn member, and one of only six members citywide, a group that includes the Chrysler and Citicorp buildings.

Parachute Jump lightning designer Leni Schwendinger said she was more than happy to re-program the tower's lighting scheme during the fall and spring migratory seasons.

"I'm happy to be a poster child" for the "Lights Out" program, Schwendinger said.

—Dana Rubinstein



The newly lit Parachute Jump at Coney Island.

## On Island, Yanks take NY-Penn League

The Brooklyn Papers

The team that eliminated the Brooklyn Cyclones from the New York-Penn League playoffs won it all last week.

The Staten Island Yankees beat the Tri-City ValleyCats on Friday night, Sept. 15, to win their best-of-three series, 2-1.

It's the second straight league championship for the Yankees.

You have to give the Baby Bombers credit. Not only did they sweep the Cyclones in the first round of the playoffs, but they won the championship series' clincher by getting two runs off the league's best pitcher, Chris Salas (remember that name, he'll be a big-leaguer soon enough).

Legendary Cyclone killer, Kyle Larsen, knocked in both Yankee runs, first with an RBI single in the first and then with a sacrifice fly in the third.

The Cyclones, of course, won the year's popularity contest, outdrawing the Yankees by more than 2-1. The Cyclones welcomed 289,323 screaming fans to the Yankees' 115,394.

—Gersh Kuntzman

## Clarke celebrates in P'Slope

The Brooklyn Papers

City Councilwoman — and almost certain Congresswoman — Yvette Clarke celebrated her big win in last week's Democratic primary with a victory lap through the

lesbian bars of Park Slope.

Clarke supporters — including City Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) and his openly gay colleague Rosa Mendez (D-Manhattan) — joined the 11th Congressional District primary

winner on a Sept. 16 bar hop that hit Ginger's and Excelsior on Fifth Avenue and Cattyshack on Fourth Avenue.

Along the way, Clarke (pictured, far left) posed with her favorite paper (along with Ginger's owner Sheila Frayne; an unidentified

bar staffer; Mendez; and Clarke's mom, former City Councilwoman Una Clarke).

Clarke's win in last week's Democratic primary makes her a virtual lock in the November general election.

—Moses Jefferson

## Diggin' Dylan

Legendary rocker Bob Dylan was in the news last week amid reports that he may have stolen some of the lyrics from his new album, "Modern Times," from Civil War-era poet Henry Timrod (a Confederate, no less). The latest report, coupled with the stories that Dylan cribbed lyrics for his last album, "Love and Theft," from a Japanese author, made us delve into Dylan's back catalogue for more examples of obvious plagiarism. As you can see by the chart below, Robert Zimmerman has never had an original thought in his life.

—The Brooklyn Papers

DYLAN LYRIC	PLAGIARIZED FROM...
"Early one morning, the sun was shining/I was laying in bed." — "Tangled Up in Blue," from "Blood on the Tracks," 1975.	"Tomorrow morning, the sun will be shining when you get out of bed." — Frank Field, weather report, Feb. 26, 1974.
"His clothes are dirty, but his hands are clean/And you're the best thing that he's ever seen." — "Lay, Lady, Lay," from "Nashville Skyline," 1969.	"Dirty clothes? You've never seen anything better than Clean Hands detergent!" — TV commercial, 1968.
"Nothing was delivered/ And I tell this truth to you/Not out of spite or anger/But simply because it's true." — "Nothing was Delivered," from "The Basement Tapes," 1975.	"I must tell you that I was disappointed, though not angry, to discover that nothing was delivered to my house on June 15, despite a promise from UPS to do so." — Letter from Lori Schack to UPS, June 22, 1974.
"I'd like to spend some time in Mozambique/The sunny sky is aqua blue/ And all the couples dancing cheek to cheek/It's very nice to stay a week or two." — "Mozambique," from "Desire," 1976.	"In Mozambique, the aqua blue sea and sky warns you like dancing cheek to cheek. One week is not enough. You must stay for two!" — Brochure from Visit Mozambique, the nation's official travel bureau, 1974.
"What's a sweetheart like you doin' in a dump like this?" — "Sweetheart like You," from "Infidels," 1983.	"What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like this?" — from "Casablanca," 1942.
"I lived with him on Montague Street/Basement down the stairs." — "Tangled up in Blue," from "Blood on the Tracks," 1975.	"Montague Street is the site of many illegal conversions, where two people often share one basement unit." — Department of City Planning report, 1974.
"If it keeps on raining, the levee's gonna break." — "The Levee's Gonna Break," from "Modern Times," 2006.	"It kept on raining and the levees broke." — Mike "Heck of a job, Brownie" Brown, FEMA director, 2005.



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# 'Ladies' introduce themselves to Ridge's Young Republicans

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Papers

It was "Ladies' night" at Brooklyn's Young Republican Club — but the ladies were not so young and actually not so Republican, at least how many Brooklynites define it.

On this ladies' night — an evening of socializing by women candidates, plus half-priced drinks and a raffle of Ann Coulter's latest tome — the political rhetoric veered as far right as some of the most conservative lawmakers.

Take Yvette Velazquez Bennett, who's running against Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope), and Viviana Hernandez, who's battling state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Park Slope).

Hernandez, 49, said the most pressing issue is the prevention of same-sex marriage.

"I believe that one man and one woman should be married," she said. "It's been proven that traditional marriage has produced the results in terms of healthy families."

"Do you want your kids to learn things that you wouldn't tell a teenager 10 years ago, that a man would want to be



Britta Vander Linden, left, vice president of Brooklyn's Young Republican Club, presents "Burt" with a copy of Ann Coulter's new book, "Godless: The Church of Liberalism," at Ladies' Night at Peggy O'Neills on 81st Street and Fifth Avenue.

with a man, or a woman with a woman?" asked Hernandez.

She rarely touched on hot Brooklyn topics like affordable housing or crime. Rather, she focused on things like condoms: "Instead of putting condoms in schools, I want to put values in schools."

She also wants to put prayer in schools.

"When we had prayer in school, we didn't have metal detectors," she said. "When you remove God from anything, you have godlessness."

Like Hernandez, Bennett is a staunch supporter of contin-

uing to hold sex offenders — even after they've served their prison terms.

"I am committed to enacting legislation allowing the civil confinement of violent sexual predators predisposed to molest, rape or kill again," said Bennett, 50.

Both women acknowledged that it's not easy campaigning on such socially conservative issues in traditionally Democratic Brooklyn, but said they have a plan.

"I ask them, 'Do you believe in life? Do you believe in marriage? Do you realize that that's more Republican?'" said Hernandez.

Not everyone in the supposedly big GOP tent thought the women typify Brooklyn Republican values.

"They don't represent what I think," said Steve Finger, a self-described libertarian who is running for Congress on the Republican line against City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke.

And a lieutenant in the National Guard, who attended the Ladies' Night, agreed.

"There should be no religion in government at all," said the soldier, a "John McCain libertarian."

"People tend to think that Republicans have a uniform set of beliefs. They don't."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

September 23, 2006

# Battle weary

Prospect Heights student describes personal impact of Iraq war

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**D**emond Mullins, a 24-year-old Iraq War veteran living in Prospect Heights, recommends everyone — especially those young people considering joining the military as a way to finance their college education — check out the powerful new documentary, "The Ground Truth."

Scheduled for DVD release by Universal Studios on Sept. 26 following a brief theatrical run in select cities, this documentary by social activist-filmmaker Patricia Foulkroff offers an unflinching look at the controversial, U.S.-led war in Iraq from the point of view of several men and women who fought in it, then returned home with horrifying physical injuries or deep emotional scars, only to find what they describe as inadequate programs in place to help them recover.

Veterans interviewed for the film recount how they willingly signed up for the military because they wanted to serve their country or find a fulfilling career and a path to a better life. However, most also say they became disillusioned with their choice, because they felt there was no clear purpose for their work in Iraq.

Pointing out how they were constantly in danger because there are no designated "front lines" in this war, and because it is hard to separate their foes from innocent bystanders, other survivors express grief over unnecessary civilian deaths or describe an inability to deal with problems at home rationally and peacefully after they were trained to dehumanize and eliminate their enemies overseas.

Several soldiers speak of singing cadences about gunning down children and reveal how they refer to their targets as "rag-heads" and "bin Ladens" during training. They also allege the military fails to address the psychological impact that killing people has on its soldiers and say it downplays the actual bloody business of war by using euphemisms and game-like weapon simulators to emotionally distance the soldiers from the people they are trained to annihilate.

The film also features confessions from vets who say they are afraid to tell their loved ones what they are going through when they come home for fear of disappointing those who consider them heroes.



## CINEMA

"The Ground Truth" will be released on DVD by Universal Studios on Sept. 26. Brooklyn's Greenpoint Reformed Church (136 Milton St. between Manhattan and Franklin avenues) is planning a special screening of the film for Oct. 10. Call (718) 383-5941, or visit the documentary's Web site, <http://thegroundtruth.net>, for details.



### A soldier's testimony

Mullins is one of the soldiers who describe on camera the impact his experiences in Iraq have had on his civilian life.

"I think all Americans should check the film out and find out what the soldiers are experiencing and find out what is going on in Iraq and find out what could possibly happen to individuals who join the military," Mullins told

GO Brooklyn in a recent phone interview.

Having signed up as a means of financing his own college education through the G.I. Bill, Mullins served five years in the U.S. Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq in 2004.

"I didn't join the active duty," Mullins says in the documentary. "I joined the National Guard and my recruiter told me I would be stateside. He said, 'The National Guard doesn't get deployed. You will receive the college benefits, the only thing that would happen is, if there is a riot, then you would be deployed.'"

The veteran says he ended up going on about 150 combat missions in Iraq, most of which "had no purpose."

"You're so compromised," he says in the documentary. "You drive on one block and children are playing football and people are laughing and screaming: 'America! America!' And on the very next block, you'll be shot at and blown up."

Upon returning home after a year of combat, Mullins says he suffered feelings of rage and depression. A moment when he

nearly punched out the car window of a driver who cut him off on the expressway served as a wakeup call that he needed some help. However, he says seeing a psychologist at a Veterans Administration hospital proved ineffective.

Although Mullins says he wasn't suicidal, he admits in the film, "I would think that I would die any way; that I would walk outside and get hit by a bus just because I had been through so much. Death couldn't be far away."

Mullins says speaking to men and women dealing with similar emotions and sharing his own experiences through the activist group, Iraq Veterans Against the War, helped to alleviate some of the pain. Now in his senior year at Lehman College in the Bronx, Mullins has completed his service with the National Guard and is applying to graduate programs with the hopes of pursuing a career in academia. He also plans to continue spreading the word about a topic that concerns so many yet is so seldom discussed.

"I hope that the film will increase American civilian awareness of our experiences in

See **GROUND** on page 12



"Hard Boiled" author: "Hard Boiled Brooklyn" editor Reed Farrel Coleman spoke at the Mill Basin branch of the Brooklyn Public Library last month.

# Short & sweet

Editor collects over a dozen 'Hard Boiled,' harrowing stories that 'scream Brooklyn'

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

"I didn't tell anybody what to write," Reed Farrel Coleman, editor of "Hard Boiled Brooklyn," told GO Brooklyn. "These are

all their own ideas. I said, 'Here's a word count; make it scream Brooklyn and do your best work.'"

The result of Coleman's literary leadership is a collection of 17 chilling stories firmly anchored in the borough's neighborhoods, which are

more likely to be appreciated by natives and residents than, say, the Brooklyn Tourism Council.

"That's why it's called 'Hard Boiled Brooklyn,'" and not "Bring Your Kids on a Sunny Sunday to Brooklyn," said Coleman, the ex-

ecutive vice president of the Mystery Writers of America. "It's both a place of light and dark. I would never have chosen to grow up anywhere else than where I grew up. I love Brooklyn."

The Ocean Parkway native, who spent his childhood cavorting through Sheepshead Bay, Coney Island and Brighton Beach, has since moved to Long Island, where he lives with his wife and their two teenagers. But Coleman is able to return to his old stomping grounds with his award-winning mystery series character, Moe Prager, who "lives" in Sheepshead Bay.

"I love it, because I get to live there in my head again," said the 50-year-old author, who's recently

See **BOILED** on page 12

## ART

### Word plays

Meet the artists featured in the first exhibition of the Skylight Gallery's 2006-2007 season, "Southern Trees Bare Strange Fruit," at a reception on Thursday, Oct. 5. This show is the first in a season of contemporary art exhibitions to be helmed by artists Danny Simmons and Meredith McNeal.



artist frank d. robinson jr., who feels that the show reveals the unique perspective of southern artists.

"All of us represent southern culture, and we're just trying to forge a new awakening about the South and our point of view," explained Robinson.

Inspired by the song, "Strange Fruit" — written by Lewis Allan (aka Abel Meeropol) and made famous by singer Billie Holiday — about the lynching of a black man, the show includes Robinson's mixed media "prayer boxes" which include a tribute to Muddy Waters, "drinking your blues away" and grandmothers.

The artist said that even the letters of his own name are a bit of wordplay, this time inspired by writer bell hooks.

Said Robinson, "It's a statement against capitalism."

"Southern Trees Bare Strange Fruit" is on display at the Skylight Gallery in Restoration Plaza (1368 Fulton St. at New York Avenue, third floor) through Nov. 4. The Oct. 5 reception, which takes place from 6 pm to 8 pm, is free and open to the public. For more information, call (718) 636-6976.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## SHOPPING

### Smells new

Everyone's heard of independent films and indie music labels, but what about indie fragrances?

Park Slope perfumery Lululei will celebrate "the spirit of independent perfumers" on Sept. 23. The year-old boutique, which

means "him-her" in Italian, according to co-owner Amy Yang, offers an assortment of niche, independent, and luxury beauty and fragrance lines. Among the cult favorites the store carries is 1 Profumi di Firenze's Ambra del Nepal (pictured).

"Small, independent perfumers are gaining more attention, especially from perfume connoisseurs who do not want to smell like everyone else," said Yang. "Since fall is a season that inspires perfume connoisseurs to update their perfume wardrobe, we are celebrating fragrance on the first day of fall."

In addition to enjoying light refreshments and free samples with every purchase on Saturday, customers will have the opportunity to meet indie perfumers such as Ulrich Lang (the man behind Aventus, a men's perfume) and Maria McElroy of Anem M.

McElroy may even be unveiling her latest creation at the event and samples should be available.

"She specializes in perfume oils," explained Yang. "Which for some perfume fanatics, is the only way to experience perfume."

Lululei is located at 682 Union St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. For store hours and more information, call (718) 399-7799 or visit the Web site [www.lululei.com](http://www.lululei.com).

— LJC

## ART



### Frontier life

The first solo exhibition for Mexican-American photographer Raul Guterrez, who has been documenting the oppressed Tibetan and Uyghur communities for the last 15 years, is on display now at the Nelson Hancock Gallery's show, "Travels Without Maps: Images from China's Western Frontiers."

"Travels Without Maps: Images from China's Western Frontiers" by Raul Guterrez will be on display at the Nelson Hancock Gallery (111 Front St. at Water Street, Suite 204, in DUMBO) through Oct. 28. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 11 am to 6 pm. For more information, call (718) 408-1190.

— LJC





# Hot to trot

*Brooklyn Heights's Jack the Horse Tavern offers winning ambiance and appetizers*

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

In Brooklyn Heights, an ambitious new restaurant is met with anticipation. The neighborhood only has a couple of terrific places and others that lean toward mediocre, so when an experienced chef finds a corner spot in a secluded part of the area, posts his menu on a Web site, then takes his time with renovations, the opening generates a lot of buzz.

In June, chef Tim Oltmans and his partner, Micki Schubert, launched Jack the Horse Tavern (named for the lake in northern Minnesota, where Oltmans fished with his father and brothers), an elegant space with a menu focused on American fare with a few innovative touches.

The view from the tavern's expansive windows of leafy Hicks Street affords diners a glimpse of ornate brownstones, some with curtains drawn back to reveal enormous, sparkling chandeliers.

Schubert, who designed the eatery, wisely chose to forgo kitschy tavern accoutrements: There are no beer steins, pipes or other saloon-like trinkets hanging from a beamed ceiling.

She's taken a former liquor store and divided it into two light-filled rooms that flow gracefully into one another.

There are brick walls, a long wooden bar in the front room, and cloth-covered tables that pull up to a tapestry banquette. Lining one wall are wonderful drawings by Schubert's father, Mitchell Hooks, an illustrator who was popular in the '60s. Hooks's mostly black-and-white pieces are indicative of the graphic style of that era: One is shaped like a butterfly that, on closer inspection, reveals women in provocative costumes and men with Dean Martin's good looks.

Candles and small, elegant lamps lend the room an amber glow. On a cold, rainy night that room was as welcoming as a friend's open arms.

Oltmans offers a small but well-chosen wine list of international bottles (\$22-\$51), with several excellent selections.

Befitting a tavern, there are six pints on draft and several mostly domestic beers and ales available by the bottle.

The kitchen is starting out with a trot, not a gallop. The market-driven menu references tavern fare with its "Sokoto" burger (several of which passed my table leaving a whiff of grilled meat in their wake), a sandwich of German sausages and a thick hanger steak with horseradish sauce.

Oltmans takes a more inspired approach to the appetizers, keeping pairings simple, so flavors emerge with clarity. In a statement on his Web site,

## DINING

**Jack the Horse Tavern** (66 Hicks St. at Grand Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, Discover, Visa, MasterCard and Venmo. Dinner \$12-\$21. The restaurant serves dinner Monday through Saturday, Closed Sunday. For reservations call (718) 852-5084.

'Jack' pot: (Above left) The interior of Jack the Horse Tavern features artwork by the father of co-owner Micki Schubert, illustrator Mitchell Hooks. (Above) Schubert shares a laugh with chef and co-owner Tim Oltmans at the Tavern's bar.

he claims to avoid "meaningless flourish," a goal I appreciate. I can live without seeing another checkerboard made of sauce or dessert plate rimmed with powdered sugar.

There are a few fine ways to begin the meal, and, oddly, a few amateurish thuds along the way that are surprising coming from a chef who has cooked in Manhattan's Gramercy Tavern, CT Restaurant and Tabla.

A chowder made with fresh corn and butternut squash is as smooth as cream. The corn's kernels add a welcome bit of crunch to the works, while a ribbon of roasted habanero pepper oil, swirled into creme fraiche and drizzled over the soup, lends heat as well as a welcome bacon-like note.

One of his most popular dishes is an unctuous chicken liver "schmeer." He serves the rich spread smoothed heavily over crisp slices of Italian bread. It's delicious just as it is, less so with a cold peach and currant chutney. Warning: The fruit slightly would bring forth its savory spices, making it a less jarring companion to the liver.

Every element in Oltmans's salmon tartare works. The raw fish is cut in cubes that are not too fine, so there is a pleasing texture to each mouthful. Crisp picama (a root vegetable with a nutty, sweet taste) adds crunch, while creme fraiche brightened with lime lightens the dish.

After such satisfying beginnings, the entrees I tried were disappointing. A

roasted pork breast is served two ways: sliced and rolled around figs and almonds, and pulled into shreds and heaped over bacon-studded Swiss chard. Both versions need more moisture. The torn pieces are too salty, and the almonds do nothing for the dish. I'm all for unconstructed plating, too, if the ingredients are attractive. This entree is all tones of beige in appearance, and, in a way, flavor.

White wine, garlic, ginger, shallots and parsley should blend into an ambrosial sauce for mussels. Instead, the creamy mixture lacks brininess and the garlic barely registers. With the shellfish comes a cone of "tempura green beans," a riff on Belgium mussels and fries. It's a cute idea, but the over-salted, doughy coating on the beans is a far cry from the lacy cloak of tempura.

Pastry chef Sasha Obhi (formerly of Nicole's in Manhattan) shares Oltmans's American-with-a-twist sensibility. One of her desserts charmed me. Obhi employs ginger to underscore the sweetness of peaches and adds heat to the whipped cream that fills a tender shortbread biscuit. Pieces of the crystallized root scattered over the top are pleasantly chewy. Digging into the crisp shortbread and its creamy center was bittersweet. I was reminded of the pleasure of the season's produce and how soon that opulence will pass.

Once Jack the Horse Tavern tightens the reins in the kitchen, it'll be a winner in the neighborhood.

## DON'T MISS

Our annual guide to  
**BROOKLYN EATS**



offers a sneak peek  
into the borough's  
premier tasting event.

NEXT WEEK IN **Brooklyn Papers**

## Summer's sizzling sendoff

Brooklynites know there's one place to get their fire-eating, booty-shaking, culture-digging groove on: "The Chile Pepper Fiesta" at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

On Sept. 30, chefs, artists and entertainers, who are inspired by the pepper's beauty and heat, will be on hand to entertain. Alms for Shanti, an "Indo-rock'n'-funk band," will get the crowds moving with their blend of satirical lyrics and traditional Indian rhythms, while the Lost Bayou Ramblers, from Lafayette, La., bring a touch of the French Quarter to their Eastern brethren.

Circus masters Robbins and Ringgold will astound with chile pepper juggling, fire eating and other flame-related, scare-your-pants-off hijinks.

After dancing, you'll be hungry, so head for the big tent at the Cherry Esplanade. But bring your hun-on-white if blistering good food isn't your thing. Among the great chefs in attendance will be Lazaro Navarro of Sena Restaurante Mexicano in Manhattan, who will cook up some of his favorite honest-to-god spicy recipes. Nimada Gupta of the Bombay Emerald Chutney Company will be handing out samples of chutneys and sauces includ-

ing the "Pit Bull Hot Sauce" that, as the name implies, will burn the roof off your mouth.

If your idea of nirvana is art you can eat, then Max Kitano of Sugarworks is your man. Kitano will be demonstrating the art of heating sugar and melding it into edible sculptures. For the celebration, he'll concentrate on one form — the chile pepper, of course.

Want a memory of the event that won't last a lifetime? Head to the "Chile Pepper Tattoo Parlor" and get "inked" with a chile pepper to wear until you wash it off. Now that's hot.

"The Chile Pepper Fiesta" will take place on Sept. 30, from noon to 6 pm, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave. between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights). The event takes place rain or shine. Entrance to the festival is free with park admission: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors and students with ID; free for children younger than 16. For more information, call (718) 623-7200, or log onto the Web site [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org).

— Tina Barry







# Construction woes

Williamsburg-based filmmaker Joseph Ariola recalls drama on and off the set of new feature, 'Coalition'

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Papers

For years, the profitable world of New York City construction has been rife with conflict and drama; so what better place could there be for a "third-generation construction guy"—turned-filmmaker to build his first movie?

Joseph Ariola, a long-time member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 15 in New York City, makes his big-screen directorial debut with "Coalition," a gritty independent film he also produced and co-wrote with retired New York City Police Detective Robert Cea.

Filmed on location in Williamsburg and Long Island City, and inspired by some of Ariola's real-life experiences, "Coalition" is about how the construction business is "systematically shaken down" by minority non-union labor and mobsters who help broker the deals. Depending on whom you ask, the word "coalition" could mean "equal rights for minority workers" or "ruthless gangs that force contractors to hire their guys, so they can get a kick-back or give them a no-show job, so the job site would be safe," Ariola told GO Brooklyn.

In the movie, which draws heavily on both themes, the Wu Tang Clan's Raekwon plays Akey, the head of the notorious, fictional Survival of the Black Man coalition group. Akey convinces his followers he wants to help them get jobs when all he really cares about is cold, hard cash.

Co-starring Frank Vincent from "The Sopranos," Michael Wright and Chuck Zito from "Oz" and Stephanie "Trinity" Finocchio from World Wrestling Entertainment, the drama Ariola hopes will be viewed as a modern-day version of the union classic, "On the Waterfront," is set to premiere on Sept. 29 at The Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts on Long Island University's Brooklyn campus.

"It's been a long time in the mak-



ing," Ariola said. "I wrote a couple of other scripts just playing around when I was a little younger and some production people here in New York said, 'These are big-budget movies.' I wrote

**Muscles and mobsters:** (Above) Actor Chuck Zito in a scene from "Coalition," which will premiere at Long Island University's Kumble Theater on Friday. (At left) Director Joseph Ariola with actor Frank Vincent.

a story about Vietnam and they said, 'If you're going to get your feet wet in independent film, you have to do more of a story, more of a drama that could be done a little inexpensively.'

"So, I turned my attention to the coalition, which I felt was more of a drama," continued Ariola. "And it was more in the industry that I knew well, and I knew I could get a lot of help with job sites and machinery and trucks to do the movie because the more I learned about how hard it was to make a movie, the more I started to mold the story around what I felt my strengths were."

The Long Island native says that before he became a full-time,

Williamsburg-based filmmaker, he wrote his screenplays when he had down-time or during his lunch breaks when he was working construction. He started writing "Coalition" about 10 years ago.

"I was always interested in the [real-life] coalition. It was always fascinating to me," he said, recalling how coalition members would occasionally arrive on work sites and shut down jobs by pressuring foremen and laborers to give up assignments to non-union labor.

"They really wouldn't go after the operating engineer guys because they

knew the operating engineers' union was a pretty strong union and, besides, they weren't really interested in running the machines because they felt that a lot of the guys really weren't qualified," Ariola noted. "So, they really went after the laborer jobs. It interested me how this whole thing was going on."

The filmmaker says conditions started improving in the 1990s as unions became more diverse (with more members who were minorities) and as then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani cracked down on the mob. That said, Ariola says his crew experienced some anxiety when he told them what his new movie was about and where they would be filming.

"There was always the fear factor of the real coalition," he said. "It was very, very hard in the beginning getting crew members on, once they knew what the topic was and once they knew there was a chance they would come face-to-face with real coalition groups and stuff. So, a lot of people were intimidated by that and we kept telling them that: 'You're just for hire; you're a hired crew member. If there's a problem, we'll deal with the problem.'"

Convincing New York City officials that everything would be OK proved to be a little more difficult.

The city actually red-flagged my project in the very, very beginning, because they felt that we had too many tough elements — Wu Tang because of Raekwon, the Hell's Angels because of Chuck Zito. We had organized crime because of the topic, and then we had the coalition. So they actually red-

flagged my project, saying that they weren't going to tolerate any kind of problem on the set," confided Ariola. "But to be honest with you, we kind of grew on them because we went through — knock on wood — 24 days of shooting and we didn't have any problems with anybody on the set. Everyone was totally professional and the city became a fan of ours after that. I guess, for just doing what we said we were going to do and getting through it."

## CINEMA

"Coalition" will premiere Sept. 29 at 7 pm at The Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts on Long Island University's Brooklyn campus (at the corner of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (718) 488-1624 or visit [www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org). The movie will be released by Image Entertainment on DVD Nov. 7.



## Be an intern!

is now interviewing candidates for our fall internship program. If you love arts and entertainment and are enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student, please send your cover letter, resume and writing sample to [GoBrooklyn@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:GoBrooklyn@BrooklynPapers.com).

Have your journalism skills while accumulating clips for your portfolio!

## NOW HIRING:

### Arts & Entertainment Associate Editor

The Brooklyn Papers is seeking an Associate Editor to assist with publication of its weekly, award-winning arts and entertainment section, **GO-Brooklyn**, and its monthly section, **The Brooklyn Bride**.

Candidates should have a passionate interest in Brooklyn's cultural renaissance. Experience in newspaper or magazine writing, as well as editing, is desirable. Our Associate Editor will work closely with the Features Editor, assisting in all tasks necessary for the production of GO's weekly, 6-to-8-page broadsheet section; The Brooklyn Bride's monthly, 2-page spread; and their Web sites. This includes original reporting and writing; factchecking; assignments for and editing work from our team of freelance writers and photographers; and more.

This is a high-energy, career-propelling opportunity with Brooklyn's real newspapers. (Please check us out online at [www.BrooklynPapers.com](http://www.BrooklynPapers.com) and click on GO-Brooklyn or The Brooklyn Bride.) We offer an industry-competitive salary plus benefits.

Please send your cover letter in the body of the e-mail, and attach your resume along with a writing sample, to [Employment@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Employment@BrooklynPapers.com) (put Associate Editor on the subject line). Or mail the same to Lisa J. Curtis, Features Editor, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201. No phone calls please.

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## GROUND...

Continued from page 9

Iraq and also increase their concern and, thereby, increase their activity with the administration, as far as voting goes, with the congressional elections coming up," says Mullins.

### A better life?

The former soldier says he thinks people will be shocked to see how different war-time military life actually is compared to the adventurous existence the government sells in its TV commercials and print advertisements or the way it is glamorized in some Hollywood movies.

"Someone asked me the other day about how graphic the film was, and I don't think it is graphic enough," Mullins noted. "It can't show even a small portion of how graphic war really is; the reality of war. So, I think everyone in America should see this. I think children should watch the film."

Mullins, who was inspired by an Army commercial to enter the military, says a lot of soldiers he has encountered also did so for the education benefits — or because they were victims of socio-economic immobility and wanted a shot at a better life.

"They want to use the military as an elevator or staircase to get out of this stagnant state, but it's not very useful in that sense because they are exploited," he added.

The veteran also says he thinks the reasons soldiers are sent to fight a war and the manner in which they are trained have much to do with the way they deal with their feelings regarding their actions in combat.

"It's possible to have a military that has more honorable practices and respectable training programs when the war effort is one that is honorable," said Mullins. "To train soldiers to do something that is against all their better judgment and their morals, the training programs have to be in some way dehumanizing and immoral."

So, does that mean Mullins thinks the war in Iraq has been more psychologically damaging than previous conflicts because he and many of his fellow soldiers think the mission is ambiguous?

"The soldiers get on the ground in Iraq, and they find that they have no clear objec-



"The Ground Truth" director Patricia Foulkrod.

tive and they have no clear purpose and so, therefore, their only objective, their only purpose is to make it back home and to make sure their buddies make it back home," Mullins explained. "The whole time that they spend in Iraq, they are trying to escape from the experience that they are having."

"This war is traumatic; if the soldiers felt like they had a clear objective and like they were doing something to benefit Iraqis, to benefit America, the experience would probably be a lot less traumatic, because there would be a light at the end of the tunnel."

That said, Mullins admits he believes it is possible for someone who has served in the military, but not gone to war, to return to a "normal" life once they leave the service.

"I think once you experience war, it's a catalyst, it's a huge part of your life, a huge change and you're not the same person afterwards," he observed. "You can go back to a normal life as a person, but if you mean, a 'normal life,' as if you are who you were before, you'll never be who you were before; that's not possible."

As for the man he is today, the student and activist says he will keep speaking out against the war even though some critics might deem his message "unpatriotic."

"There are definitely some people who call you 'unpatriotic,' but I'm not really worried about being patriotic; that's not really on my list of priorities," Mullins said. "What I concern myself with is honesty and just telling people about what is really going on over there and trying to wake Americans up. That's my priority. Patriotism is arbitrary."

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## BOILED...

Continued from page 9

been avalanched by award nominations for his latest Prager novel, "The James Deans."

"Moe sort of takes the prototypical white guy-Christian-loner-alcoholic-private-eye and turns [the stereotype] on its ear, because he is a happily married, family man with a successful career. It's very literate and philosophical, which means that the critics love it and fans won't buy it," explained Coleman with a laugh.

And love it they do. "The James Deans" was nominated for the Mystery Writers of America Edgar, the Private Eye Writers of America's Shamus, the Mystery Readers' Macavity, Deadly Pleasures' Barry, Bouchercon's Anthony and Mystery Ink's Gumshoe awards.

Despite the critical acclaim for the Moe Prager series, Coleman has invented yet another protagonist, Joe Serpe (pronounced SIR-pee) for his new series that will be launched this fall under the nom de plume Tony Spinoza.

Also under the Spinoza moniker, Coleman contributed the short story "Killing O'Malley" to "Hard Boiled Brooklyn," which is one of several stories in the collection that deals matter-of-factly with racism in Kings County.

"[When I was young,] racist code words weren't used in my house, but next door, 'nigger' and 'spic' were commonly used words," recalled Coleman. "I suffered from anti-Semitism when I was growing up, but in Brooklyn, you weren't as sensitive to it, because it was such a part of the fabric of life. People were not as highly charged by it. But that's a long time ago."

"I'm not saying it was a good thing, but it wasn't whispered about. People were just openly racist. It's not a writer's job to say whether that's healthy or less healthy, but it's our job to say it certainly existed."



Whether the stories in the anthology feature a heavily pregnant landlady being tormented by her tenant (Naomi Rand's "House Envy" set on Bergen Street) or a divorced father who has custody of his son for the day and loses him on the F train to Coney Island (Peter Blaumer's "Going, Going, Gone"), "these stories hit home," said Coleman.

"Blaumer is a very harrowing writer, and I felt that if I put his story first, people would feel, 'Oh my god, this is the first story? I won't be able to read anymore,'" said

### BOOKS

Editor Reed Farrel Coleman will read from "Hard Boiled Brooklyn" (Bleak House Books, \$15.95) at Night and Day (220 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) on Oct. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Coleman will be joined by fellow contributors Gabriel Cohen and Peter Blaumer. There is no cover but there is a \$7 food or drink minimum. For more information, call (718) 399-2161.

Coleman of the piece he chose to end the collection. "Because you've been built up to it by that point, it really finishes with a bang."

Blaumer will join Coleman and fellow "Hard Boiled Brooklyn" contributor Gabriel Cohen (who curates the Sundays at Sunny's author series in Red Hook), for a reading at Park Slope's Night and Day restaurant on Sunday, Oct. 8.

"This is entertainment," said Coleman. "Even dark stuff should be fun and people should enjoy it. If they don't, I'll come and kick each of their asses personally. After all, you can take me out of Brooklyn, but it's hard to take the Brooklyn out of me."





# Personality plus

Sackett Group's 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile' offers beaucoup laughs and brain food, too

By Jovana Rizzo  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**P**ablo Picasso and Albert Einstein meet at the turn of the 20th century to discuss the important things in life: are they out to change the world or do they just want to meet some girls?

The Sackett Group's production of actor Steve Martin's 1993 smart comedy, "Picasso At the Lapin Agile," directed by Don Lebowitz-Nowak, opened at Fort Greene's Brooklyn Music School Playhouse on Sept. 15. The play marks the second season of shows produced by the theater company that is dedicated to developing itself as a professional regional theater.

With Martin's comedic writing, practically anyone could have been on stage reading the lines and it still would have gotten laughs, but the energetic cast at the Playhouse delivered his jokes with excellent timing and exuberance. It was hard to come upon a dull moment, especially with the random appearance of an Elvis-esque country boy visiting from the future. The audience was as confused and amused as the 1904 bar patrons on stage.

The play's action unfolds against the set of the Lapin Agile, an artists' watering hole in Paris. Germaine (Anna Pond) and Freddy (Peter Bonilla) own the hangout, where regulars include Pablo Picasso (Billy Lane), Albert Einstein (Mark Cujiao), some Picasso groupies, and a strangely blunt yet endearing old man, Gaston (John Scheffler), who announces in every scene that he has to pee.

Because of the title, you assume that Picasso is the main character, which he is, but the



Inside the 'Lapin Agile': (Left to right) Aaron Oetting (Schmendemen) commands the scene as John Scheffler (Gaston) and Billy Lane (Picasso) look on in "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

entire production is driven by the many personalities and combination of talent. Each actor has his own moment to develop his persona, even though the play takes place over the course of one day and

tainly thought so and makes a point to laugh at the two, saying that they only use their genius to make up for the fact that neither is handsome.

You can't help but think Germaine is right when Picasso makes his grand entrance into Lapin Agile, stating to all in the bar he has been thinking about sex all day, and proceeds to hit on every female in his path, ready to seduce them with his artistic passion.

Although much of the character interactions are humorous and silly, the play does have a cerebral side.

Bar owners Germaine and Freddy say they are Romanticism (neo- or post-? It was never fully decided upon) and Symbolism, respectively. This is easy to dismiss when the characters briefly talk about it, but you understand that their attitudes match their given literary devices when you see Germaine's thirst for life, and Freddy transform from a simple character to making profound judgments.

The characters of Germaine and Freddy are in a relationship, and complement each other, just as the manic Picasso becomes practical Einstein's foil.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" is filled with plays on words and plays on intellectuals. In talking about life, Einstein and Picasso predict that in the 20th century, the movement of a pencil creating art will be greater than any political movements, although everyone laughs at Germaine when she predicts the success of computers, wide use of airplanes and popularity of the Beatles.

The Lapin Agile, one room with scattered tables, blue walls and a stocked bar, has two faces, making it easy for anyone on-stage or off- to enjoy: Are you looking for clever jokes or thoughtful consideration about the future of civilization? The patrons of the Lapin Agile raise the question: Does your mind stretch in hope of being one of the country's next great geniuses or can it focus only on picking up the blonde at the bar?

## THEATER

The Sackett Group's production of "Picasso At the Lapin Agile" plays The Brooklyn Music School Playhouse (216 Feltz St. at Hanson Place in Fort Greene) through Oct. 1. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$20. For more information and to order tickets, call (212) 352-9101 or visit [www.sackettgroup.org](http://www.sackettgroup.org).

within the same bar.

After a dueling of the pencils over who is the more talented creator — with Einstein on the verge of finishing "The Special Theory of Relativity" and Picasso about to paint the famed "Les Femmes d'Alger" — the two inevitably join together in recognition that they are both shaping the 20th century.

Sound cliché? Germaine cer-



# Where

Compiled  
by Susan  
Rosenthal Jay

## SAT, SEPT 23

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**HAWK WEEKEND:** Audubon Center celebrates this annual event and presents entertainment with hand puppets, hawk costumes, interactive games and crafts. Also, workshops in nature photography, hawk-inspired crafts and a screening of a film about New York's most famous hawk, Bald Eagle. Noon to 5 p.m. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 267-3400. Free.

**LULLABY EXPLORATION:** Enjoy a boat tour detailing Prospect Park's aquatic habitat. Binoculars provided. \$10, \$6 kids. 1:15 pm to 1:55 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 267-3400.

**WALKING TOUR:** Mauricio Lloveras hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through Prospect Park. "Garden and the City," 11 a.m. Meet at Prospect Park. Meet at Manhattan Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0453.

### PERFORMANCE

**DANCE FOR PEACE:** Dance and peace awareness in Fort Greene Park. 3 pm to 4 p.m. Enter park through southeast entrance. (718) 266-7154. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents an all-Shostakovich chamber music program. 5:30, 5:30 seniors. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2081.

**GALLERY PLAYS:** presents "The Actor's Nightmare" by Peter Ignatius. Explains IAI For You. \$18, \$14 kids and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 232-3311.

**THE SACKETT GROUP:** presents the comedy "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" written by Steve Martin. \$20, 8 pm. Brooklyn Museum Playhouse, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 636-7104.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** presents "The Denier Party." \$12, \$10 children and seniors. 8 pm. 520 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

**VEPERS CONCERTS:** presents its "Evening Prayer" series. The Dancers Witkowski Group performs. Donations accepted. 8 p.m. Lafayette Lutheran Church, 259 Washington Ave. Call for info. (718) 562-5612.

### CHILDREN

**PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL:** Take a ride. \$1.50 per ride. Noon to 5 pm. Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 267-7879.

**ART WORKSHOP:** Kids are invited to a session of sketching, painting, pottery and beading. \$3.00. Noon to 4 pm. YWCA, 300 Third Ave. (718) 515-1190.

**HARVEST FAIR:** at Lefferts Historic House. Kids are invited to harvest potatoes and then eat a freshly cooked potato. Also, vendors and food for children who help load the apple press. Donations and more. 1 pm to 5 pm. Children's Center, at intersection of Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 789-2622. Free.

**BASKETBALL CLINIC:** Advanced and amateur basketball clinics. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (13 to 17 years) are invited to participate. Girls play 3:30 to 5:30. Boys play 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. YWCA, 357 Ninth St. (718) 625-3136. Free.

### OTHER

**FLEA MARKET:** at Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 12 pm. \$110 Bay Parkway. (718) 837-4142.

**ART SHOW:** YWCA shows and crafts sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Donations suggested. 300 Third Ave. (718) 875-1190.

**FRAGRANCE DAY:** Lulworth offers free sample packs of fragrances and skin care with every fragrance purchase. Tuesday, several performers will discuss their process and debut new scents. Noon to 3 pm. 682 Union St. (718) 399-7799. Free.

**NEIGHBORHOOD FEST:** St. Raphael hosts its third annual festival. Fun, food and international music. Noon to 5:30 pm. (718) 267-3400.

## SUN, SEPT 24

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK:** Big Orion Tours takes a walk over the bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 children. 11 a.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

**BRIGHTON BEACH:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment leads a walk through this neighborhood. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 children. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet under elevated train at Brighton Beach Avenue and Coney Island. (718) 788-8500.

**CONCERN:** St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs a concert of works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$10 children. 8 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

**THE RHYTHM PLAYERS:** George Greenfield, \$15, \$10 seniors and kids. 3 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 970 Fourth Avenue. (718) 636-7104.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents an all-Shostakovich chamber music program. 5:30, 5:30 seniors. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2081.

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## Mon, Sept 25

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BAMCINETEAT:** presents "Jean-Claude Carrière's Language of Film." Today: "Therapy" (1983). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 3 pm, 6 pm and 9 pm. 30 West 4th St. (718) 777-7777. www.bamcinee.com.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK:** presents "Plates of the Caribbean." Valentino Pier, end of Coffey Street. 8:15 pm. For information, visit the Web site: www.redheadmovies.com. Free.

**ROCKTOP FILMS:** presents "Rocktop: Closing Night." \$8. Music at 8:30 pm. Film at 9 pm. Automotiv High School, 50 Bedford Ave. (718) 471-7362.

## Sun, Sept 24

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK:** Big Orion Tours takes a walk over the bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 children. 11 a.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

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## Tues, Sept 26

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**BRIGHTON BEACH:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment leads a walk through this neighborhood. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 children. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet under elevated train at Brighton Beach Avenue and Coney Island. (718) 788-8500.

**CONCERN:** St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs a concert of works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$10 children. 8 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

**THE RHYTHM PLAYERS:** George Greenfield, \$15, \$10 seniors and kids. 3 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 970 Fourth Avenue. (718) 636-7104.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents an all-Shostakovich chamber music program. 5:30, 5:30 seniors. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2081.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** presents "The Denier Party." \$12, \$10 children and seniors. 8 pm. 520 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

**VEPERS CONCERTS:** presents its "Evening Prayer" series. The Dancers Witkowski Group performs. Donations accepted. 8 p.m. Lafayette Lutheran Church, 259 Washington Ave. Call for info. (718) 562-5612.

### CHILDREN

**PROSPECT PARK CAROUSEL:** Take a ride. \$1.50 per ride. Noon to 5 pm. Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 267-7879.

**ART WORKSHOP:** Kids are invited to a session of sketching, painting, pottery and beading. \$3.00. Noon to 4 pm. YWCA, 300 Third Ave. (718) 515-1190.

**HARVEST FAIR:** at Lefferts Historic House. Kids are invited to harvest potatoes and then eat a freshly cooked potato. Also, vendors and food for children who help load the apple press. Donations and more. 1 pm to 5 pm. Children's Center, at intersection of Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 789-2622. Free.

**BASKETBALL CLINIC:** Advanced and amateur basketball clinics. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (13 to 17 years) are invited to participate. Girls play 3:30 to 5:30. Boys play 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. YWCA, 357 Ninth St. (718) 625-3136. Free.

### OTHER

**FLEA MARKET:** at Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 am to 12 pm. \$110 Bay Parkway. (718) 837-4142.

**ART SHOW:** YWCA shows and crafts sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Donations suggested. 300 Third Ave. (718) 875-1190.

**FRAGRANCE DAY:** Lulworth offers free sample packs of fragrances and skin care with every fragrance purchase. Tuesday, several performers will discuss their process and debut new scents. Noon to 3 pm. 682 Union St. (718) 399-7799. Free.

**NEIGHBORHOOD FEST:** St. Raphael hosts its third annual festival. Fun, food and international music. Noon to 5:30 pm. (718) 267-3400.

## Thurs, Sept 28

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BAMCINETEAT:** presents "Jean-Claude Carrière's Language of Film." Today: "Therapy" (1983). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 3 pm, 6 pm and 9 pm. 30 West 4th St. (718) 777-7777. www.bamcinee.com.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK:** presents "Plates of the Caribbean." Valentino Pier, end of Coffey Street. 8:15 pm. For information, visit the Web site: www.redheadmovies.com. Free.

**ROCKTOP FILMS:** presents "Rocktop: Closing Night." \$8. Music at 8:30 pm. Film at 9 pm. Automotiv High School, 50 Bedford Ave. (718) 471-7362.

## Sun, Sept 24

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE WALK:** Big Orion Tours takes a walk over the bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 children. 11 a.m. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

**BRIGHTON BEACH:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment leads a walk through this neighborhood. \$9, \$8 seniors, \$5 children. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet under elevated train at Brighton Beach Avenue and Coney Island. (718) 788-8500.

**CONCERN:** St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs a concert of works by Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$10 children. 8 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1000.

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**NEIGHBORHOOD FEST:** St. Raphael hosts its third annual festival. Fun, food and international music. Noon to 5:30 pm. (718) 267-3400.

## Fri, Sept 29







# 'Little Dishes' causes big problems

## Lawyers swoop in on Slope eatery



Mira Friedlaender, co-owner of Little D Eaterly, stands in front of her restaurant with a menu bearing the previous name of the restaurant, Little Dishes.

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Papers

Some high-priced Manhattan lawyers have forced a reasonably priced Park Slope restaurant to change its name.

Little Dishes, a well-reviewed cafe on Seventh Avenue, is now Little D Eaterly, thanks to a settlement with Uncommon Grounds, a Manhattan restaurant chain that claims to own the exclusive right to the word "dishes."

"Your use of 'Dishes' in 'Little Dishes' creates the likelihood of confusion in that the public will mistakenly believe that your restaurant is related to Uncommon Grounds' 'Dishes' restaurants," lawyer Kevin Lake wrote to Little Dishes owners Colin Wright and Mira Friedlaender.

"The use of a descriptive term such as 'little' does not eliminate the likelihood of confusion."

But confusion is unlikely. Uncommon Grounds' three "Dishes" restaurants are high-volume lunch places in Manhattan, while "Little Dishes" is a dinner-only restaurant with a full wine list.

"We think the public could have figured out the difference," said Friedlaender. "We're a table-service, fine-dining, Mom and Pop establishment that's only open for dinner. They're a fancy buffet lunch place for business people."

The most troubling thing for Friedlaender is that "Little Dishes" actually has a strong claim to the name. She said the name of her restaurant is a reference to Turkish "meze"-style appetizers. "Meze" means "little dishes" in Turkish.

"My mother was Turkish, and when I took Colin to Turkey, he fell in love with the fish restaurants — where one starts out choosing from meze," Friedlaender said. "We don't do traditional Turkish food, but we love that style of eating — and wanted to use that template for new American food."

Given that thematic hook, Friedlaender said that if she had "unlimited

funds," she would have fought the legal assault from across the river.

"I understand they are trying to protect their trademark, but it's all so corporate," she said. "That mindset is so far from what we do."

Friedlaender has already altered the restaurant's Web site — [www.littledishes.org](http://www.littledishes.org) — to forward customers to the new [www.littled-eaterly.com](http://www.littled-eaterly.com) — another legal hoop through which she was required to jump.

"And we get to say, 'Formerly Little Dishes' until Nov. 1," she added.

Lake, of the Park Avenue law firm of Kurzman Karselen & Frank, did not return calls.

## The big unit\$

There was a time when \$1 million could get you 40 brownstones in Boerum Hill. But in this white-hot real-estate market, it doesn't even get you two bedrooms in some neighborhoods.

The Brooklyn Papers has covered it all — from a \$1-million home in Red Hook, to a \$1-million brownstone in Sunset Park.

Now comes The Simone, a new, five-story, 37-unit building in relatively far-flung Kensington that has one apartment priced at \$999,000.

The building, at 35 McDonald Ave., between Terrace Place and 20th Street (right), went on the market a few weeks ago, and 19 units have already been reserved.

But without killer Manhattan views or a fancy Prospect Park West address, what exactly does that \$1 million get you at The Simone (aside from a dark, 10-minute walk to restaurants, stores, and the F train)?

The luxe apartment — all of 1,796 square feet — features two bedrooms, two baths, chocolate oak cabinets, Grohe faucets and bamboo floors.

David Perez, a senior associate with the Corcoran Group, which is marketing the building, said the apartments are selling like mad because, "This is affordable." (Several 600-square-foot studios in the Henry Radusky-designed building go for as "low" as \$275,000, Perez explained.)

But how does The Simone's million-dollar unit fit into the rest of the booming market? See our handy chart.

— Dana Rubinstein



Neighborhood	Sunset Park	Windsor Terrace	Red Hook	Gowanus
<b>Building</b>	Four-story townhouse on 54th Street, between Fourth and Fifth Avenues	Three-story townhouse on Vanderbilt Street, between East Second Street and McDonald Avenue	Four-story townhouse on Wolcott Street, between Richards and Dwight streets	Three-story house on 16th Street at Third Avenue
<b>Price</b>	\$950,000	\$1.1 million	\$1.075 million	\$945,000
<b>Size</b>	3,840 square feet	2,700 square feet	3,178 square feet	About 2,400 square feet
<b>What you get</b>	6 BR, 4 bath, a backyard, marble mantles, tin ceilings and hardwood floors.	3 BR, 2.5 bath, stainless steel appliances, French doors, large dining area with "ornate pillars," lots of light and plenty of quiet.	6 BR, 3.5 bath, new two-family house with a one-car garage, Jacuzzi, stainless steel kitchen with balcony.	3 BR, 3 bath, three-family house (two floors of rental income), garden, decorative mantles.
<b>Downside</b>	At least 30 blocks from the nearest Yippie hangout. Or maybe that's an upside.	Too much quiet. The closest form of entertainment is a cemetery.	For that price, it would be nice to have transportation options other than the B77.	Proximity to the belching traffic along Hamilton Avenue. And you're within whiffing distance of the Gowanus Canal!



## Colton: Never forget 9-11

for The Brooklyn Papers

A local lawmaker is so worried that New Yorkers will forget what happened on 9-11 that he wants New Yorkers to remember 9-11 on 9-11 with a holiday named after 9-11.

Assemblyman William Colton (D-Gravesend) is introducing a bill to make Sept. 11 a New York State holiday called, appropriately enough, "9-11 Remembrance Day."

He hopes the legislation will encourage schools to hold 9-11 commemoration ceremonies every

year on 9-11.

Naming the holiday, however, seems to be the extent of Colton's power to ensure that future generations mark 9-11 on 9-11. The legislature can't require specific activities to mark the day or even grant time off from work or school.

But Colton will not be deterred, fearing that Sept. 11 will go the way of Dec. 7 (Pearl Harbor), Aug. 14 (V-J Day) and Sept. 19 (the Garfield assassination).

But some constituents think his symbol gesture is useless.

"What's the point?" said

Brooklynite Vera Kachnowski. "I don't think we're in any danger of forgetting about 9-11, so there's really no need for a holiday."

Colton said he came up with the idea after his wife, who was working across the street from the World Trade Center when they were destroyed, told him that future generations should never be allowed to forget what happened.

"It would be a tragedy to forget 9-11," said Colton. Especially on 9-11.

— Christie Risk

## Merchants complain of 'double park' tix

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Who knew that double-parking was actually legal?

Well, not the cops, according to merchants along Atlantic Avenue, who claim that officers are unfairly targeting truckers making deliveries along Brooklyn's busy east-west spine.

As a result, "the drivers refuse to come down here," said Rachel Leibowitz, owner of the avenue's Circa Antiques shop. "They say it's not worth the effort."

Leibowitz and many beleaguered drivers claim that the cops ignore city traffic law that allows a commercial vehicle to double-park if "expeditiously making pickups, deliveries or service calls" during legal parking hours, as long as there is no loading zone or open parking spot within 100 feet. (Don't believe it? Check section 4-08, subsection f, subsection 1 of the Department of Transportation code.)

"But they don't care about the law,"

said hauler Juan Gonzalez. "They watch you park and then slap a ticket down no matter what."

Shopkeepers on the commercial street say the ticket-happy cops are ignoring the avenue's real traffic woes in pursuit of the double-parking deliverymen.

"About 30 seconds after my deliveryman pulled up yesterday, the cops pulled up," said Jennifer Barron, who owns Cook's Companion on Atlantic Avenue near Court Street. "[Ticketing] the truck was so urgent that the cop went the wrong way down the crowded avenue to get to him."

"Aren't there unsafe street-crossings to worry about?"

Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association President Sandy Balboa said her group is now working with the NYPD to "educate the officers about the law."

"You hear the city say they support small businesses, but the actions aren't supporting that," Balboa added.

The NYPD declined to comment.



Double-parked trucks making deliveries — which is legal in New York City — are nonetheless being ticketed by police.

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# In Clinton Hill, Civil War-era home set to be demolished



This 19th-century Clinton Hill mansion will soon be torn down to make way for a condominium.

By Claire McTaggart  
for The Brooklyn Papers

A Clinton Hill mansion that dates back to the Civil War — yet is not protected as a city landmark — is about to be torn down to make way for a high-rise condo tower, renewing local fears about the “Manhattanization” of Brooklyn.

The 15-bedroom Italianate mansion — located at 70 Lefferts Pl. between Classon Avenue and Grand Street — was bought for \$2.4 million by developer Christopher Morris, who intends to turn it, as well as the 65- by 120-foot adjacent lot, into a seven-story, 25-unit market-rate condo building, the largest structure that zoning will allow.

“The proposed building is way too big for the block,” said nine-year Lefferts Place resident David Conrad. “There has been a lot of high-priced condo development recently in the area and I’m worried it could be quick and dirty.”

Displeased residents have vowed not to let Morris, a Ditmas Park resident, have his way without a fight. The Lefferts Place Civic Association has been pushing for the house to be granted landmark status.

At the same time, City Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect

Heights) is working to pull Morris’s demolition permits and has sent residents’ petitions to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

“I fully support getting the location landmarked as a historic site,” James told The Brooklyn Papers.

Her constituents agree. Migdalia Marim, who has lived next door to the mansion for 30 years, said that tearing down such beautiful architecture to make room for a modern building would “change the whole character of the street and I really don’t like it.”

Barbara Arnold, who has lived across the street for 26 years, added that the new construction would ruin the communal feeling of the quiet block.

“Most of the people on the street know each other, that will all change,” she said.

Other residents complained about limited parking and noise that could come with such a large construction.

But at least one area resident said that you can’t stop progress. Morris, after all, isn’t the only developer intending to build in the area.

“The neighborhood is changing, different people are coming in and they want different things,” said Arnold’s 21-year-old son Antoine, who was born and raised across the street.

“If they can afford it, I guess we have to accept it.”

## CHECKIN’ IN WITH...

### The Peace Warrior

The war in Iraq isn’t going quite as planned — and Kevin Fagan, co-founder of the New York Campaign for the Department of Peace, thinks he knows why. “If we had a Department of Peace, President Bush could have sent in the peace troops after his famous ‘Mission Accomplished’ speech,” said Fagan, a Windsor Terrace resident. Fagan checked in with Gersh Kuntzman.



**Q: Why does the U.S. need a “Department of Peace”?**

A: We need a way to foster peace, both internationally and domestically. Internationally, the DOP would look for ways to avoid armed conflict, using proven methods such as economic development. Most of the violence we’re seeing, even the terrorism, stems from people being hopeless, and having no markets or education.

**Q: And domestically?**

A: It’s obvious when you turn on the news how violent this country is. Domestic violence, gang violence, school violence. But there are so many small programs around the country that work, keeping kids out of gangs, for example. The DOP would replicate such programs around the country.

**Q: Sounds like it’s a cross between the best part of the State department and a good community affairs officer.**

A: People say, “But, Kevin, we already have the State Department.” But the State Department only fosters America’s economic self-interest. Our diplomats are not trained in peace-building. The DOP would create a peace academy as a sister institution to the existing military academies. We are not looking to do away with the military. We simply want to train some troops in peace-keeping. The need was so clear in Iraq.

**Q: How did you get involved in the fight to create a “Department of Peace”?**

A: After 9-11, I wanted to find a way to change the paradigm that says that violence should be responded to with violence. I was never very politically active, but in April, 2003, I went to Washington with the Peace Alliance and lobbied Congress. And since then, we went from 55 co-sponsors [of Rep. Dennis Kucinich’s Department of Peace bill, HR 3760] to 74. We don’t have a Republican co-sponsor, though.

**Q: I guess peace is a partisan issue.**

A: It isn’t. We’re not calling for an end to the Department of Defense. And we’re not out there bashing Republicans or the president. We need bi-partisan support to pass Kucinich’s bill.

**Q: Pardon the pun, but you’ll need ground forces.**

A: Right now, we have 20-25 really active people in the New York chapter and several hundred on our email list.

**Q: Hate to be a killjoy, but Don Rumsfeld has 200 million people on his email list. How do you combat that?**

A: We don’t combat it. We just talk to people about the change we want to see.

## ORTNER...

Continued from page 1

Peg Breen, the president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, which recently presented the couple with an award. “They were ahead of their time and they had great guts.”

After buying a brownstone on Berkeley Place in 1963, the Ortner began talking friends into moving into the neighborhood. They were soon fighting “urban renewal” projects that had slated most of Park Slope’s brownstones for demolition and convinced banks to start giving mortgages to prospective homeowners.

“They were the heart and soul of that movement,” said Maryann Feeney of the Park Slope Civic Council, who worked with the Ortners.

From the base in Park Slope, Ortner and her husband fought middle-class flight by encouraging would-be suburbanites to remain in the city and rejuvenate the inner city.

“She brought people to Brooklyn,” said Karen Hopkins, president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where Ortner had served as a board member for over 30 years. “She made what was great about Brooklyn known to other people.”

Dexter Guerrieri, president of the Brownstone Revival Coalition and chairman of the Preservation Volunteers, two of the groups co-founded by the Ortners, added: “She has been a tireless promoter and big-picture thinker.”

But she never lost her essential Brooklyn-ness. “She had a wonderful wit,” Guerrieri said, “and a real knack for pulling people together. She knew everybody. Everybody was her friend and everybody loved her. She’s not replaceable.”

Most recently, Ortner had lent not just her voice, but four decades of credibility, to the opposition to the Atlantic Yards project. She joined the board of Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn in May — even as she was serving on the board of BAM with developer Bruce Ratner.

“She felt that Atlantic Yards was against most things she stood for,” says DDDDB spokesman Daniel Goldstein.

“To have someone like that support what we were doing further emboldened us and showed us that what we were doing was right.”

Ortner’s death came weeks after she underwent a double mastectomy. She is survived by her husband of 53 years with whom she did most of her work.

“They were an impressive team,” Breen said.

Given Evelyn Ortner’s passion for preservation, it should come as no surprise that her family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations should be sent to Preservation Volunteers, 232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003.

## NEW FUEL...



Some critics are worried about exhaust from the making of the supposedly green bio-diesel fuel in Red Hook.

Continued from page 1

is decaying the moment when the U.S. oil supply runs dry.

“This could be a solution,” said Glenn McAnnamara, who blogs about the international oil crunch at nycethoilcrunch.com.

“You’re making efficient use of what was waste, reducing our reliance on foreign oil and decreasing pollution.”

More than a million gallons of waste oil could be collected for reuse from Brooklyn kitchens alone, according to a 2004 Cornell study.

The proposed plant includes a distribution center where local truckers and bus drivers could fill up — for \$2.65 a gallon, according to Tri-State.

“We believe that that there are dozens of local bus and truck fleets that will be able now to switch,” said Phaedra Thomas, executive director of Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation.

Yet some in Red Hook worry that the clean oil may be still too dirty for the popular baseball diamond — home to the Mexican Baseball League of New York — and public park that sit just west of the industrial park’s exhaust-colored concrete walls.

The new facility would replace a storage lot now occupied by mounds of smoke-free road salt.

“We are talking about a site that is immediately adjacent to one of the city’s most-popular recreational areas,” said John McGentrick, Red Hook Civic Association President. “We have to find out more.”

Experts agree that the conversion of cooking oil into fuel does create a small amount of emissions. But even environmental watchdogs note that the emissions are minor compared to conventional petroleum production.

## CHABAD OF BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN

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